DC BATMAN

BATMAN

WITH ROBIN THE TEEN WONDER

NO. 240
MAR.
30430

52 BIG pages
DON'T TAKE LESS!
ONLY
25¢

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PROFESSOR--
I SWEAR I'LL
AVENGE YOUR
DEATH!

I'M
NOT
DEAD,
BATMAN!

5120

D.O.A.

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DC BATMAN
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BATMAN
IN THIS PLACE, THERE IS A SPECIAL SILENCE... A WAITING REVERENT SILENCE, AS THOUGH THE CRACKED WALLS AND HARD CONCRETE FLOOR AND MARBLE SLABS REVERE AND MOURN...FOR THIS IS THE GOTHAM CITY MORGUE, AT MIDNIGHT!
YOU'VE IDENTIFIED THE BODY, COMMISSIONER?
HE'S MASON STERLING...THE HEAD OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE... THE SO-CALLED THINK-TANK!
IT'S THE WAY HE DIED THAT BOTHERS ME... AND BAFFLES ME!
YOU SEE... HIS BRAIN HAS BEEN REMOVED!
SUCH IS THE BROODING QUIET THAT THE WHISPERED WORDS OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON AND THE BATMAN REVERBERATE AND ECHO, DEFILING THE STILLNESS --- A STILLNESS WHICH PARADOXICALLY CRIES OUT FOR.....
STORY: DENNY O'NEIL
ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO
EDITING: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
"VENGEANCE FOR A DEAD MAN!"
S-1026
1

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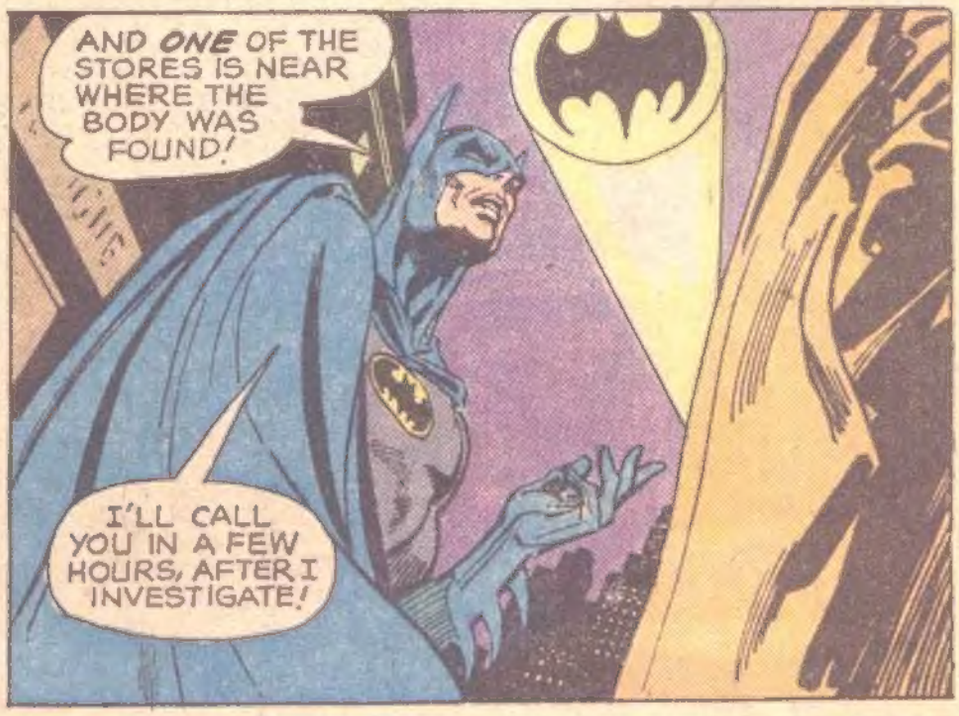
FRANKLY, BATMAN, MY MEN DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA OR TWO!
I HAVE, SIR! THE CONTENTS OF THIS ENVELOPE... THESE THINGS YOU FOUND IN STERLING'S POCKETS?
THAT'S EVERYTHING!

THERE ARE ONLY A FEW STORES IN GOTHAM THAT SELL THESE EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES!
JUDGING FROM THE STAINS ON THE MURDERED MAN'S FINGERS, HE SMOKED A LOT OF THEM!


AND ONE OF THE STORES IS NEAR WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND!
I'LL CALL YOU IN A FEW HOURS, AFTER I INVESTIGATE!

MY DESTINATION IS IN EASY-WALKING DISTANCE! I COULD TRAVEL FASTER OVER THE ROOFTOPS!
-- BUT SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING ME! I THINK I'LL JUST LET THEM AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

THIS PLACE IS RUN BY FLINKY DAVENPORT... EX-PICKPOCKET! HE SELLS ODD CIGARETTES--
NIGHT OWL SMOKES
OPEN ALL NIGHT
-- AND HE HEARS LOTS OF UNDER-WORLD GOSSIP!
2

INSIDE THE STORE...
YOU RECOGNIZE THE MAN IN THIS PHOTO, FLINKY?
CHECK! HE'S A CUSTOMER... I SELL HIM THEM FANCY FOREIGN SMOKES!-- WHY? HE IN TROUBLE?
THE WORST KIND, ... THE LAST TROUBLE!

HEY, I GOT SOMETHIN' MIGHT INNEREST YOU! CHECK THIS,,, LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY CIGAR BOX, RIGHT?
ONLY, WHEN YOU OPEN THE LID--

--YOU GET A COUPLE EYES FULL OF BLINDNESS! -- IT'S A GIMMICK TO COOL OUT HOLDUP MEN--
--AN' I OWE YOU A HURTIN' FROM THE TIME YOU SENT ME TO THE SLAMMER, BATMAN!

I CAN'T SEE... BUT I CAN HIT! YOUR BIG MOUTH GIVES ME A PERFECT TARGET!
KRUMP!

I OWE YA SOMETHIN', TOO, BATMAN! LIKE FLINKY, I ONCE SPENT A YEAR BEHIND BARS-- AN' YOU PUT ME THERE!
WHUP!

I BEEN WAITIN' FOR A CHANCE TO GET EVEN...
KLIK
...PRAYIN' FOR IT!
SUDDENLY THERE IS THE MUFFLED COUGH OF A SILENCED PISTOL -- AND THE GLITTERING BLADE SPINS FROM NUMBED FINGERS --
VOOP!
AND THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN IS CATAPULTED THROUGH THE WINDOW BY THE BODY-BLOCKING OF THE ALMOST SIGHTLESS BATMAN!
KREESH
SOMEONE FIRED THAT SHOT... SOMEONE WHO'S COMING! --MUST CLEAR MY VISION...
IS IT A FRIEND... OR YET ANOTHER ENEMY?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
4

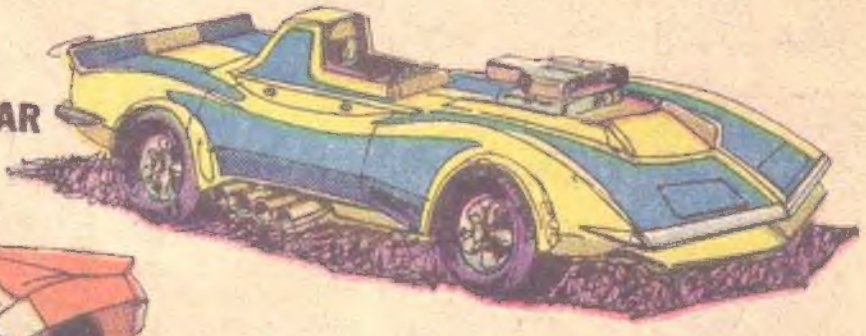
Aurora rolls out a half dozen new A/FX heavies.

NO. 1762 A/FX NASCAR PLYMOUTH

NO. 1761 A/FX PINTO FUNNY CAR

NO. 1763 A/FX FERRARI 512 M

NO. 1766 A/FX CORVETTE FUNNY CAR



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NO. 1764 A/FX JAVELIN PRO STOCKER

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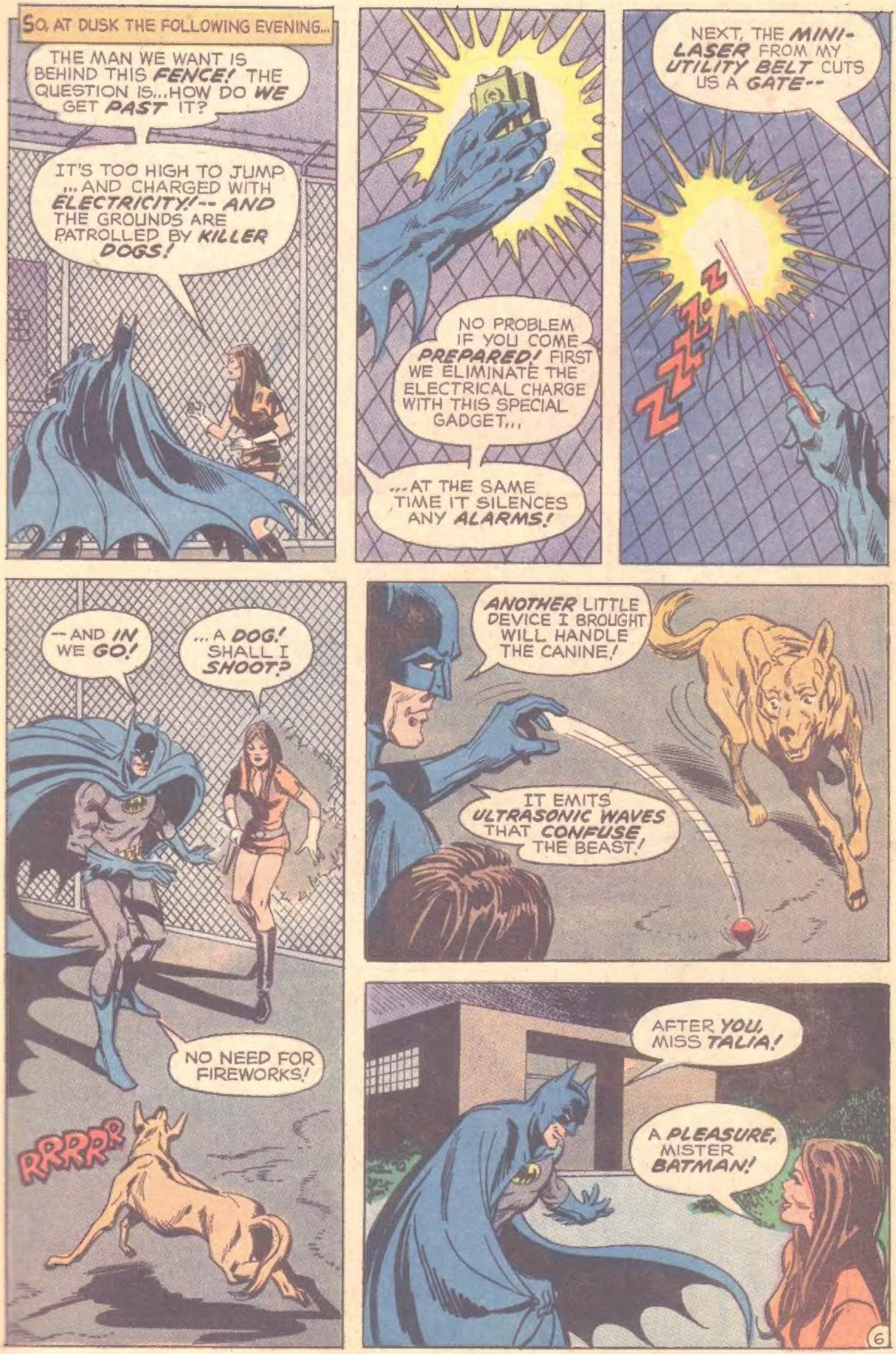
SLOWLY, THE BATMAN'S VISION CLEARS... AND HE RECOGNIZES A LOVELY, FAMILIAR FACE...
TALIA!
YES, DEAR BATMAN, IT IS YOUR OWN TALIA!
SO YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME! - WHY?
I KNEW OF MASON STERLING'S DEATH -- MY FATHER HAS MANY SOURCES OF INFORMATION...
... AND I SAW THE POLICE SIGNALING YOU IN THE SKY! IT WAS SIMPLE TO DEDUCE YOU WOULD BE AT THE MORGUE!
I WISHED TO... KISS YOU AGAIN!
I ALSO MAY BE ABLE TO AID YOU IN LOCATING STERLING'S SLAYER!
HIS PARTNER?
MY FATHER'S INFORMANTS SAY HIS PARTNER WAS RESPONSIBLE!
YES -- INDEED! THE CO-OWNER OF STERLING'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE!
THEN WE'LL PAY A CALL ON HIM TOMORROW! UNTIL WE MEET... THANKS FOR THE TIMELY SHARP-SHOOTING!
MY PLEASURE, DEAR BATMAN!
5

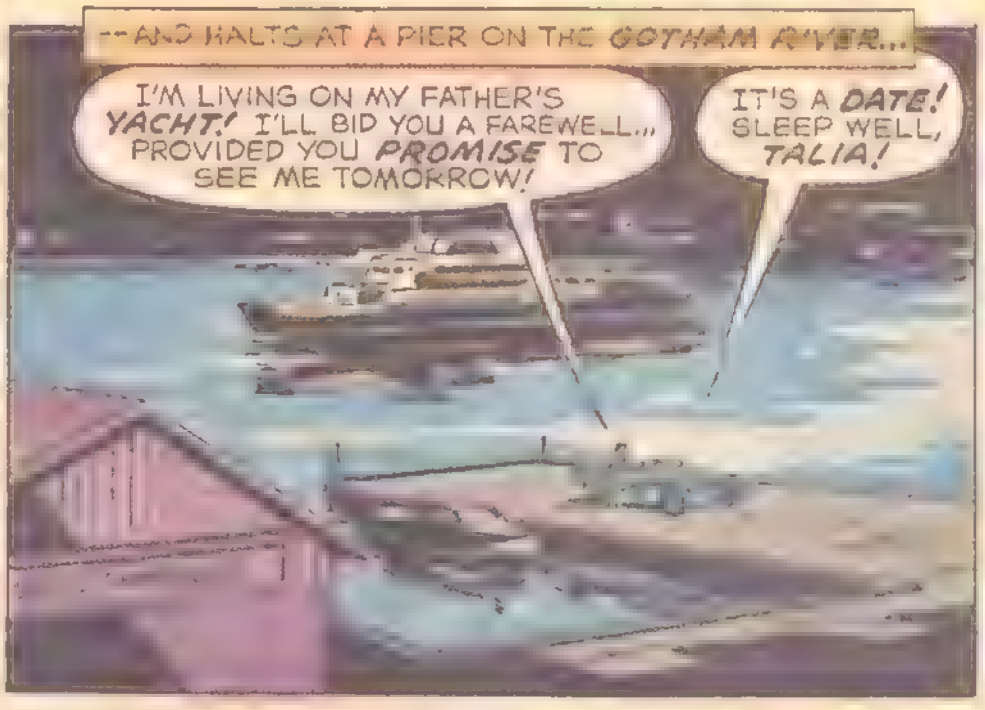

SO, AT DUSK THE FOLLOWING EVENING...
THE MAN WE WANT IS BEHIND THIS FENCE! THE QUESTION IS...HOW DO WE GET PAST IT?
IT'S TOO HIGH TO JUMP ...AND CHARGED WITH ELECTRICITY!-- AND THE GROUNDS ARE PATROLLED BY KILLER DOGS!
NO PROBLEM IF YOU COME PREPARED! FIRST WE ELIMINATE THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE WITH THIS SPECIAL GADGET...
...AT THE SAME TIME IT SILENCES ANY ALARMS!
NEXT, THE MINI-LASER FROM MY UTILITY BELT CUTS US A GATE--
ZZZZ
--AND IN WE GO!
...A DOG! SHALL I SHOOT?
NO NEED FOR FIREWORKS!
RRRRR
ANOTHER LITTLE DEVICE I BROUGHT WILL HANDLE THE CANINE!
IT EMITS ULTRASONIC WAVES THAT CONFUSE THE BEAST!
AFTER YOU, MISS TALIA!
A PLEASURE, MISTER BATMAN!
6

EVEN AS THE BATMAN AND HIS LOVELY COMPANION APPROACH THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE...
I TELL YA, MR. KEENER, OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO RUN! THE WORD HAS GOTTEN OUT--
--TOO MANY GUYS KNOW YOU HIRED ME TO GUN YOUR PARTNER!
BUT IF I DO RUN--
--IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS ADMITTING MY GUILT! I'D NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT...
CORRECT! YOU WOULDN'T--
--AND YOU WON'T!
--THE BATMAN!
SOMEHOW, THE SECOND I LOOKED AT YOU I WAS CERTAIN YOU'D PULL A GUN--
--AND I WAS EQUALLY CERTAIN YOU'D BE ASLEEP BEFORE YOU COULD FIRE!
7

NOW... YOU!
YOU HAD YOUR PARTNER MURDERED! WHY?
I... HAD TO! WE WERE DOING SOME WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND I... WELL--
I WAS PASSING ON THE INFORMATION TO... AN UNFRIENDLY POWER! MY PARTNER FOUND OUT... THREATENED TO EXPOSE ME!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T EXPLAINED WHY YOU REMOVED H.S BRAIN!
IT WOULD HAVE MEANT PRISON... DISGRACE--!
R-REMOVED HIS BRAIN? I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
OBVIOUSLY THE GENTLEMAN IS LYING! HOWEVER, SOON HE WILL SPEAK THE TRUTH!
I HAVE WITH ME A TRUTH-SERUM MY FATHER'S CHEMISTS DEVELOPED--
--A SINGLE TOUCH AGAINST BARE SKIN-- AND THE SUBJECT IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE SPEAKING UNTRUTHS!
HISSSSS
HE'S PASSED OUT!
OH, DEAR! BATMAN, I'VE MADE A DREADFUL MISTAKE! I ADMINISTERED THE WRONG SERUM!
THIS ONE CAUSES FORGETFULNESS ...AMNESIA!
I CAN BE SUCH A GOOSE SOMETIMES... BUT YOU WILL FORGIVE ME, WON'T YOU?
AFTER ALL, I DID LEAD YOU TO THE KILLER! AND YOU DO HAVE A CONFESSION FROM HIM!
8

NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO EXCEPT PHONE COMMISSIONER GORDON AND TELL HIM WHERE TO PICK UP HIS CRIMINALS!
THEN I'LL DRIVE YOU BACK TO GOTHAM!

THUS, A SLEEK ROADSTER SPEEDS THROUGH THE THICKENING DARKNESS--


--AND HALTS AT A PIER ON THE GOTHAM RIVER...
I'M LIVING ON MY FATHER'S YACHT! I'LL BID YOU A FAREWELL... PROVIDED YOU PROMISE TO SEE ME TOMORROW!
IT'S A DATE! SLEEP WELL, TALIA!

SECONDS AFTER TALIA LEAVES, THE BATMAN LIFTS A CAPTIVE FROM BENEATH THE DASHBOARD, AND SPEAKS TENSELY...
ALFRED! LISTEN... I NEED HELP! I'VE CAUGHT A MURDERER-- BUT I HAVEN'T SOLVED THE CRIME!
I WANT YOU TO LAND THE SMALL CHOPPER NEAR PIER SEVENTEEN AND...

SOON AFTER, ON THE DECK OF THE LUXURY VESSEL...
DOCTOR MOON! AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE LABORATORY?
YOUR FATHER IS ATTENDING TO MATTERS THERE! I HAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO RETURN WITH YOU!

THEN LET US NOT DELAY! I PRESUME TRANSPORTATION IS WAITING?
ALL IS IN READINESS!
DOWN BELOW, GO THE GIRL AND THE MAN KNOWN AS MOON... TO A HATCH IN THE KEEL OF THE YACHT!

SLIPPING THROUGH, THEY ENTER A TINY SUBMARINE FIXED TO THE LARGER HULL! THERE IS THE WHINE OF AN ELECTRIC ENGINE...
...AND TALIA GUIDES THE CRAFT INTO THE MURK OF THE MIDNIGHT RIVER...
AND ON THE RIVER'S EDGE...
THAT'S IT, ALFRED! LET'S MOVE!
I'M AFRAID I'M BAFFLED, SIR! WHAT'S "IT"?
WHEN I SAW THE SHIP, I NOTICED IT WAS RIDING LOW IN THE WATER-- TOO LOW!
THE ONLY REALISTIC POSSIBILITY WAS THAT A SUB WAS ATTACHED! A MINUTE AGO, THE SHIP LIFTED SEVERAL FEET!
CONCLUSION... THE SUB'S GOING SOMEPLACE-- AND WITH THE HELP OF THIS SONAR SCREEN, WE'RE FOLLOWING!

YOU HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT MISS TALIA OF BEING DISHONEST WITH YOU?
SURE... A WOMAN THAT SMART-- THAT TOUGH-- DOESN'T MAKE STUPID MISTAKES LIKE MIXING UP SERUMS!
SHE WANTED KEENER TO LOSE HIS MEMORY!
THE BLIP OF THE SCREEN HAS STOPPED... WHICH MEANS THE SUB HAS DONE LIKE-WISE--
THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF!
EXTRACTING HIS MINI-BREATHING APPARATUS FROM HIS UTILITY BELT, THE BATMAN ADJUSTS IT INTO POSITION-- AND...
SEE YOU LATER, ALFRED-- I HOPE!
WITH ARROW-SWIFT-NESS HE DIVES--
--AND WITH STRONG, STEADY STROKES PLUNGES TOWARD A LIGHT WHICH SHINES IN THE GLOOM...
11

THERE'S THE UNDERWATER BOAT... DOCKED AT THE ENTRANCE TO SOME SORT OF CAVERN!
AS I SUSPECTED, IT BEARS THE DEMON'S HEAD INSIGNIA-- THE MARK OF TALIA'S FATHER... RA'S AL GHÜL!
AND HERE'S THE GUARD I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED RA'S WOULD STATION...
...UNDOUBTEDLY TRAINED FOR SUB-SEA COMBAT!
HE'S TRYING TO DISLODGE MY MINI-RESPIRATOR!
FISTS ARE USELESS IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION...
...BUT JUDO CAN WORK!
I'LL PUT A PIECE OF PAIN INTO HIS FOREARM!
AN ORDINARY PUNCH WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE THE FORCE NEEDED TO STUN HIM--
--BUT IF I YANK HIM TOWARD ME--HARD--
12

--AND HE MEETS A KARATE JAB COMING THE OTHER WAY--
--HE SLEEPS THE SLEEP OF THE SORE-CHINNED! HIS TANKS WILL KEEP HIM ALIVE--
--WHILE I FIND OUT WHERE THE AIRLOCK LEADS!
INCREDIBLE!-- A WHOLE LABYRINTH HIDDEN WHERE NOBODY WOULD SUSPECT... ON THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER!
RĀS AL GHŪL NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME... AND PUZZLE ME!
VOICES COMING FROM DOWN THE CORRIDOR... THE VOICE OF RA'S GHUL HIMSELF!
I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO LOCATE HIM WITHOUT ANOTHER OF HIS HENCHMEN INTERFERING!

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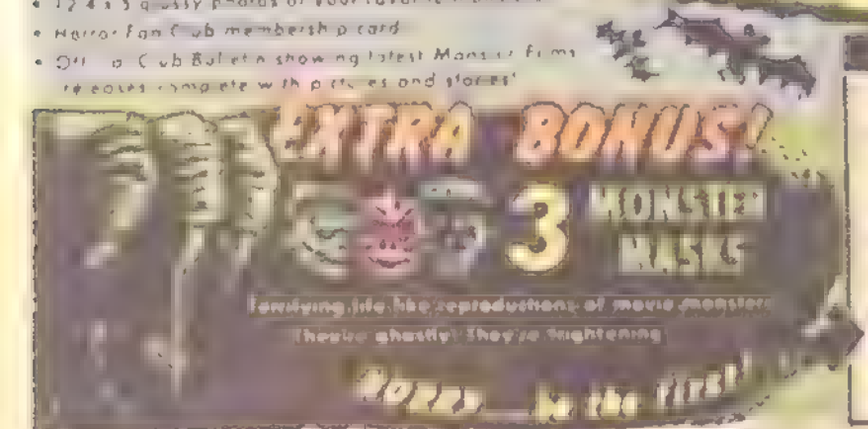

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INDEED, IT IS AWESOME RĀS AL GHŪL THAT THE BATMAN HAS HEARD! FOR...
YOU ARE PREPARED, DOCTOR MOON?
YES, MASTER! TRUTH DRUGS HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE SUBJECT'S NUTRIENT FLUIDS!
HE WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS!
YOU CAN HEAR ME?
YES!
I WOULD KNOW THE NATURE OF THE WORK YOU WERE DOING FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!
WE PLANNED DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERS... FOR THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA!
AND THE EXACT NATURE OF THESE MANEUVERS?
DON'T ANSWER!
AH, OUR FRIEND THE MASTER DETECTIVE! ONCE MORE YOU DEMONSTRATE YOUR PROWESS! I HAD IMAGINED THIS FORTRESS SECURE!
SAVE THE FLATTERY! FROM YOU, IT'S INSULTING... UNLESS I'M WRONG ABOUT WHAT'S IN THAT TANK!
NO, I FEAR NOT! DETECTIVE, LOOK UPON ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE LATE MISTER STERLING... HIS BRAIN!

IT'S... ALIVE? IT CAN HEAR?... SPEAK?
COMMUNICATE... THANKS TO THE GENIUS OF DOCTOR MOON!
...HELP ME...
YOU'RE... INHUMAN!
AM I, DETECTIVE? IS IT INHUMAN TO PROLONG LIFE IN WHATEVER FORM?
WHEN MY SERVANTS FOUND STERLING, HIS BODY WAS HOPELESSLY DESTROYED!
WE PRESERVED WHAT WE COULD!
WHY?
BECAUSE IT CONTAINS KNOWLEDGE USEFUL TO MY ORGANIZATION! I LONG FOR A BETTER WORLD-- NOT ONE COMMANDED BY FOOLS! THIS IS MY DREAM!
MISTER STERLING'S INFORMATION WILL AID ME IN REALIZING IT!
AND WHEN MY WORLD IS REALIZED, YOU WILL SIT AT MY SIDE ALONG WITH MY DAUGHTER!
NO! YOU'RE MAD... INSANE WITH NEED FOR POWER! I'VE NEVER REALIZED IT UNTIL THIS MOMENT!
ALAS, I FEARED SUCH WOULD BE YOUR REACTION!
MOON-- SUMMON MY SOLDIERS!
AS YOU COMMAND, MASTER!

--AND HIS ROCK-HARD KNUCKLES STRIKE UNERRINGLY!
SOKK
YOU'RE GOING TO THE AUTHORITIES, RĀS! YOU'LL CONFESS YOUR SCHEME-- AND THE CRIMES YOU'VE COMMITTED TO FURTHER IT!
DON'T RESIST... YOU EITHER, TALIA! I'D HATE TO HARM YOU...
...BECAUSE YOU LOVE ME AS I LOVE YOU! ADMIT IT, DEAREST!
MAYBE SO... BUT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE!
THEN, THE UNEXPECTED... RĀS AL GHŪL SURFACES, AND A TRANSPARENT SHIELD DROPS FROM THE ARCHED CEILING! AGAIN, THE BATMAN LEAPS--

--TOO LATE! HIS BLOWS ARE FUTILE AGAINST THE STEELY PLASTIC--
HELPLESS, FURIOUS, HE WATCHES HIS QUARRY'S ESCAPE! AND A RASPING SOUND REACHES HIS EARS...
I CAN HELP... PRESS RED BUTTON... WILL LIFT BARRIER...
INSTANTLY, THE BATMAN OBEYS--
ZZZZT
THERE IS A DULL EXPLOSION AND IMMEDIATELY THE BRAIN OF MASON STERLING IS ENCASED IN FLAMES...
YOU LIED! YOU KNEW YOU'D... DIE!
COULD NOT CONTINUE TO... EXIST... LIKE THIS...
IN THE CHAMBER, THERE IS THE COLD, UNMISTAKABLE PRESENCE OF DEATH! THE BATMAN STANDS SILENT AND SEETHING WITH ANGER, VOWING VENGEANCE... FOR A DEAD MAN...!
END
WATCH FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN A FORTHCOMING ISSUE!
7

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ONCE AGAIN NIGHT'S BLACK CANVAS IN GOTHAM CITY IS SPLASHED WITH FAMILIAR RED-'N'-YELLOW--
--COLORS OF THE YOUTHFUL, FORMER PARTNER OF A CERTAIN CRIME-AVENGING DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE...
Robin
THIS TIME, THOUGH, THE TEEN WONDER FLIES SOLO-- BUT THE VENGEANCE-SCREAM ECHOES JUST AS DEEPLY WITHIN HIM!
STORY: MIKE FRIEDRICH
ART: RICH BUCKLER
A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED-- AND IT MUST BE CORRECTED! JOIN US IN THE MYSTERIOUS...
THEATER OF THE MIND!
TAKE A PART... IF YOU DARE!

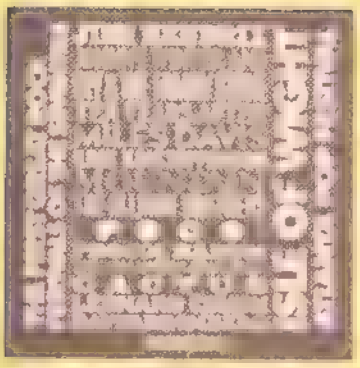
MEMORIES FLASH AND STREAK LIKE FALLING METEORITES THROUGH ROBIN'S MIND...
"--ONLY TO FIND THE CENTER OF THE ARGUMENT, RICK ASHER, COLLAPSED IN A STATE OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL SHOCK..."
"FIRST, A SCUFFLE WITH A COUPLE OF OVER-ZEALOUS JESUS-PEOPLE--"
"--THEN THE WEIRDEST HAPPENING OF ALL -- BY SOME PSYCHIC MEANS..."
"--I WAS DRAWN INTO A DREAM-- APPARENTLY BY TERRI BERGSTOM!"
"I FOUND A MAJOR WOUND HAD BEEN INFLICTED BY RICK'S FATHER, ONE WHICH WOULD SCAR THE SON'S MIND, HIS EMOTIONS, HIS LIFE--"
NOW I FIND MYSELF TRACKING DOWN HIS FATHER-- TO SEE IF SOME-THING CAN BE WORKED OUT!
AND... I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT HOW TERRI DRAGGED ME INTO THE DREAM-- IT SCARES ME...
...'CAUSE THOUGH I'VE HAD SUSPICIONS --IF I SHOULD DISCOVER THAT SWEET GIRL IS REALLY INVOLVED IN THE OCCULT--
--I... I MIGHT JUST TURN INTO THE FABLED TOAD!
2

WE WONDER, ROBIN... WHAT SHAPE YOU WOULD TAKE IF YOU COULD SEE THE SUBJECT OF YOUR THOUGHTS BELOW YOUR SKYWAYS FLIGHT?
ONCE AGAIN-- MIND-CROSS HAS OCCURRED!
WHY IS MY PSYCHIC SEARCH FOR MY COUSIN CONTINUALLY INTERCEPTING ROBIN?
BUT THE DECISIONS OF CHANCE ARE NOT MINE TO MAKE--!
ONCE AGAIN AM I CALLED TO AID ANOTHER'S CAUSE--THAT OF A RICK ASHER!
SO BE IT-- MAY MY MIND GO FORWARD TO ITS TASK!
THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME--THE MYSTERIOUS MANSIONS OF THE MIND, THE UNKNOWN CAVERNS OF THE HEART, THE UNEXPLORED DEPTHS OF THE SOUL...
...ALL ON DESTINY'S PATH FOR ROBIN...
43
ASHER
SO THIS IS THE ASHER PENTHOUSE-- QUITE A PAD! A QUICK CHECK WITH BRUCE WAYNE'S ADDRESS BOOK WAS ALL I NEEDED--
--SINCE I HAD RECOGNIZED RICK'S DAD FROM THE DREAM-- GORDON ASHER, CUT-THROAT FAT CAT OF THE FASHION BIZ!
--YES--?
GULP! MAY I SPEAK TO MR. GORDON ASHER, PLEASE?
WHEW! THIS BUTLER MAKES ALFRED LOOK LIKE PETER PAN! I'LL BET NOBODY GETS BY HIM WITHOUT PERMISSION!
I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD EXCUSE FOR BURSTING IN UPON MY BROTHER AT THIS HOUR, ROBIN!
NOW, BURTON, LET THE LAD HAVE HIS SAY! WE SHOULD AT LEAST LISTEN TO THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, YOU KNOW!

NOW—YOURS FROM COLUMBIA—

Any 14 of these

if you join now and agree to buy ten more records (at regular Club prices)



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3 records count as 2

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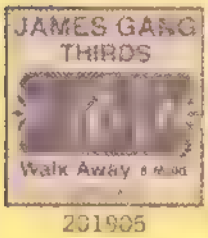

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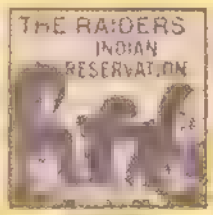

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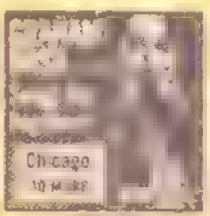

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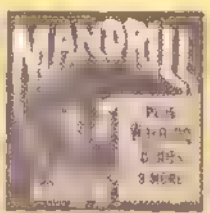

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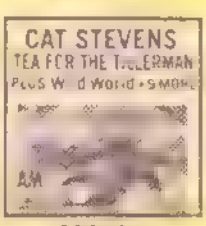

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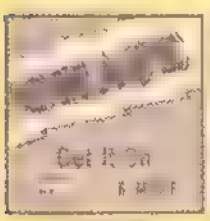

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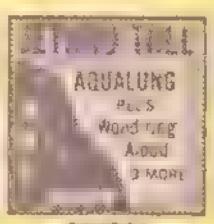

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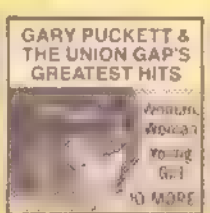

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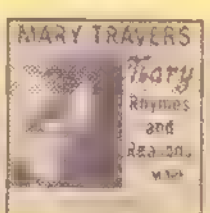

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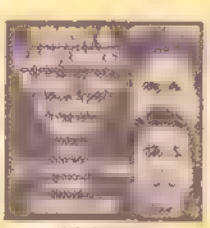

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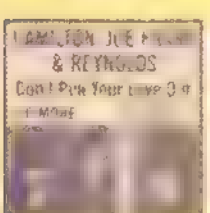

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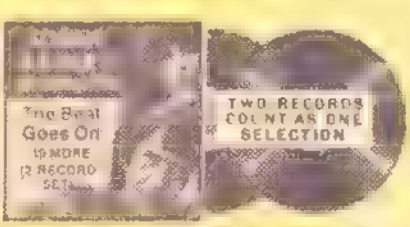

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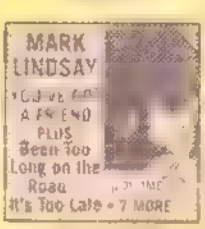

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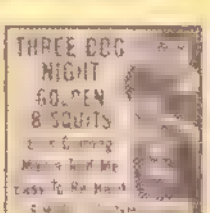

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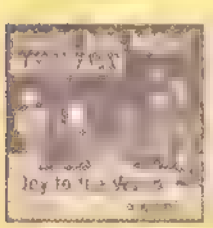

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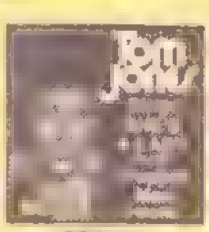

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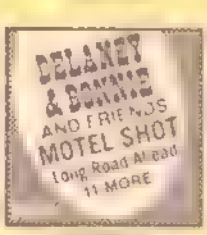

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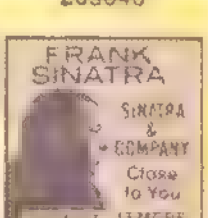

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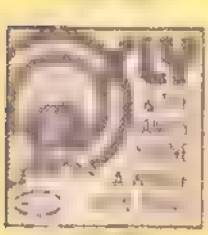

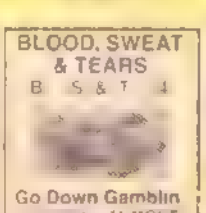

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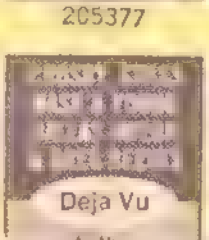

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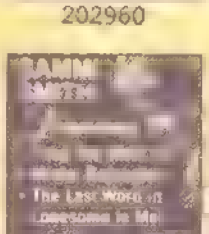

207944

196725

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during the coming two years (you will have up to 300 records a month to choose from)

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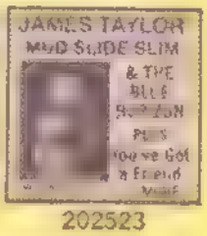

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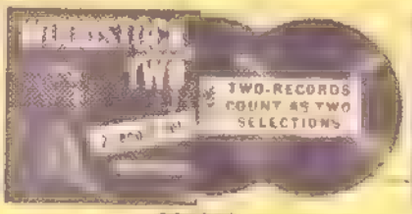

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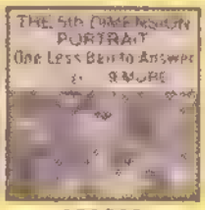

191205

202473

Join right now and get ANY 14 of these records for only $2.86! And all you have to do is agree to buy as few as ten records (at the regular Club price) during the coming two years. That's right!—two full years in which to buy your ten records. After doing so, you'll have acquired 24 records—at practically a 50% saving off regular Club prices!

you will receive, every four weeks, a copy of the Club's entertaining music magazine. Each issue describes the regular selection for each musical interest and almost 300 other records . . . hit albums from every field of music, from scores of record labels.

If you do *not* want any record in any month—just tell us so by returning the selection card by the date specified . . . or you may use the card to order any of the records offered. If you want *only* the regular selection for your musical interest, you need do nothing—it will be shipped to you automatically. And from time to time, the Club will offer some special albums, which you may reject by returning the special dated form always provided—or accept by doing nothing.

Upon enrollment, the Club will open a charge account in your name . . . records will be mailed and billed to you at the regular Club price of $4.98 or $5.98 each, plus processing and postage. (Multi-record sets are somewhat higher.)

As soon as you complete your enrollment agreement, you may cancel membership whenever you wish. If you continue, you will automatically become eligible for the Club's bonus plan, which entitles you to *one record of your choice free* (plus 25¢ for processing and postage) *for every one you buy thereafter!* So you'll continue to save about 50% of your record dollars!

together with your check or money order for only $2.86, as payment for your first 14 records. Also be sure to indicate the type of music in which you are mainly interested. Act now!

Columbia Record Club
a service of Columbia House Terre Haute, Indiana 47808

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Send these 14 records—I've enclosed check or money order for $2.86

All records will be described in advance in the Magazine, sent every four weeks. If I do not want any record, I'll return the selection card by the date specified . . . or use the card to order any record I want. If I want only the regular selection for my musical interest, I need do nothing—it will be sent automatically. From time to time, I'll be offered special albums which I may accept or reject by using the dated form provided.

(check one only):

☐ Mr.
☐ Miss
☐ Mrs. (Please print) First Name Initial Last Name

Address.....

City.....

State..... Zip.....

Do you have a telephone? (check one) ☐ YES ☐ NO

APO/FPO addressees: write for special offer

(BS-Z) 536

PRESENTING HIS STORY...
--AND SO, IF YOU'LL COME WITH ME TO GOTHAM VILLAGE...
PREPOSTEROUS! WHAT MY NEPHEW'S DONE SINCE HE STALKED OUT OF THIS HOUSE--
--JOINED HIS RABBLE GROUP OF FRIENDS-- IS NONE OF OUR BUSINESS!
NOT UNLESS YOU CONSIDER A FATHER TO BE A BUSINESS-- SIR!
HARUMPH!
ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE! THOMAS-- DISPOSE OF HIM IN THE CUSTOMARY MANNER!
KWUMP
THIS'LL SHOW...
...YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD GUY DOWN!
A CHAUFFEUR ENTERS, AND...
I'LL HANDLE HIM, SIR... ULP!
THINK I'LL SIT THIS ONE OUT...
...AT LEAST TILL THIS ONE IS OUT!
KLUNK
AND NOW, GENTLEMEN... I'LL GO-- UNDER MY OWN POWER!
BUT REMEMBER THIS-- I'LL BE BACK!
4

HOWEVER, ONCE OUTSIDE, COOL, WHITE FURY GIVES WAY TO THE SLICING SHARP WINTER WIND...
RICK'S UNCLE BURTON WOULDN'T LET GORDON GET A WORD IN EDGE-WISE!
ROBERT HEINLEIN WOULD LABEL BURTON A "FLAPPER"...
...BUT TO ME HE'S JUST A BIG, FAT ROADBLOCK! IF I COULD GET GORDON ALONE, I MIGHT CONVINCE HIM TO SEE HIS SON!
--YEAH, I KNOW THE WAY TO DO JUST THAT!
ACROSS THE ROOFTOPS FLIES THIS BIRD OF NIGHT, MOVING FOR ALL THE WORLD LIKE THE BATMAN HIMSELF.
AND THROUGH IT ALL, THE TEEN TITAN CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL HE MISSES THE SENSATION!
NO TROUBLE GETTING INSIDE-- WHO'D EXPECT A PROWLER AT FORTY STORIES?
NOW FOR MY DISGUISE-- OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "BLACK LIKE ME"!
I NOTICED THE CHIEF QUALIFICATION FOR A SERVANT HERE IS BLACK SKIN!
NOT THAT I THINK THE ASHERS ARE BIGOTS...
...JUST A MITE RACIST -- A HUGE MITE!
5

THEN...
SAY, BOY-- I THOUGHT YOU COLORED FOLKS HAD GONE ON TO BED?
UH-OH!
MASTER ASHER CALLED FOR ME, SIR!
OKAY, MY BROTHER'S IN HIS STUDY!
I WAS COMPLETELY BENEATH BURTON'S NOTICE! HIS KIND THIS WORLD CAN DO WITHOUT!
WHA--? WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO YOU--?
HUH?
ROBIN?
SORRY FOR THE DECEPTION, SIR, BUT I HAD TO SEE YOU ALONE--
--WITHOUT YOUR BROTHER!
WHY? I HIDE NOTHING FROM BURTON! HE TOOK MY HOLE-IN-THE-WALL SHOESTORE...
...AND BUILT IT INTO A FASHION EMPIRE!
BUT, RICHARD, YOUR SON--
--MY SON? I RAISED HIM UNDER THE GOOD BOOK--
BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY HE WENT SOUR... TURNED AWAY FROM ME, FROM OUR CHURCH!
PERHAPS HE COULDN'T STOMACH THE WORDS WHEN THE ACTIONS DIDN'T FOLLOW!

266 ways to win yourself a

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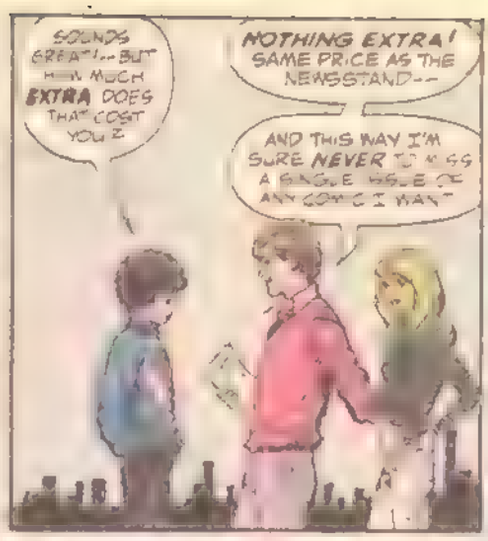
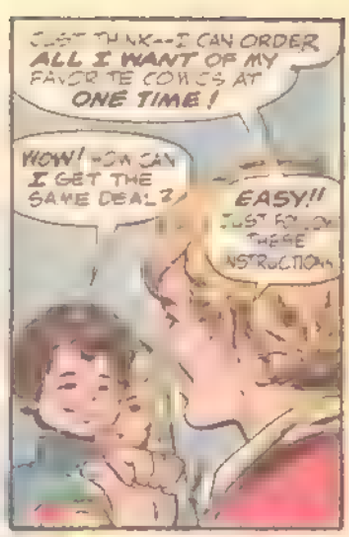
IN FACT, IT'S CONSIDERED RATHER UN-CHARITABLE!
MY GUESS IS YOU'VE LET YOUR BROTHER DO TOO MUCH OF YOUR THINKING FOR YOU!
HOW ABOUT IT...?
ALL RIGHT-- YOU'VE TOUCHED ON SOME DEEP NERVES! I'LL GIVE YOU--AND MY SON-- YOUR CHANCE!
SHORTLY, IN GOTHAM VILLAGE...
THIS IS THE APARTMENT OF BROTHER THOMAS, MR. ASHER...
...AND WHAT A CHANGED PLACE IT IS! WHEN I WAS HERE LAST, THERE WAS HOSTILITY IN THE AIR!
JESUS IS OUR LORD
HELLO, SON...
RICHARD...
...DAD...
ROBIN TELLS ME YOU'VE RUN INTO SOME BAD MENTAL DIFFI-CULTIES--
--THAT I HAVEN'T PAID ENOUGH ATTENTION TO MY SON...
C'MON, LET'S LEAVE 'EM BE...
WELL, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME TIMES LATELY WHEN I-- I COULD'VE LIKED YOU AROUND...
JUST THEN...
UNCLE BURTON!?
GORDON, HAVE YOU LOST ALL YOUR SELF-RESPECT...
BOWING AND SCRAPING TO THIS NO-GOOD, WASTED CHILD!
OH NO! ALL THE ASHER FAMILY CONFLICTS ARE HERE--

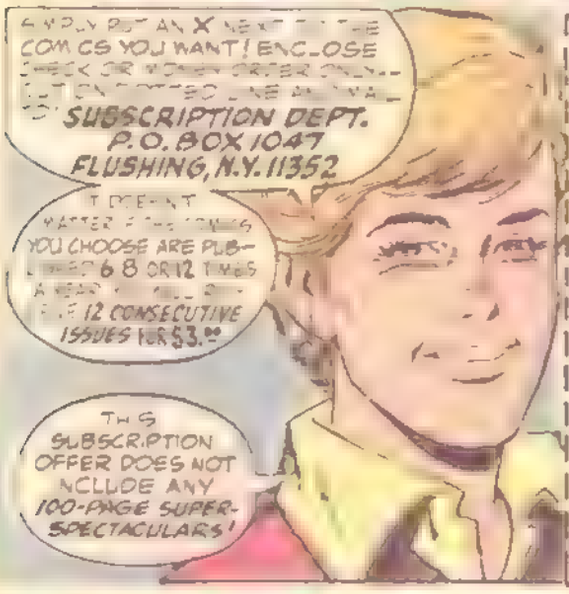
--AND THEY'RE READY TO EXPLODE!
MY PHYSICAL ABILITIES ARE USELESS IN SUCH AN EMOTIONAL CONFLICT!
NOW, OUR STORY FOLDS AND BENDS UPON ITSELF, RETURNING US TO YOUNG, MYSTERIOUS TERRI!...
AT THIS POINT, MY PATH BECOMES CLEAR! HOW BLIND HAVE I BEEN...
...TO WHAT WAS IN FRONT OF ME AT ALL TIMES! ROBIN IS THE PSYCHIC LINK TO MY COUSIN!
I MUST ATTEMPT A PSYCHIC FEAT I NEVER DARED BEFORE--TO BRING TOGETHER THE MINDS OF THESE FOUR UNLIKE PEOPLE!
ROBIN BEGAN THIS ADVENTURE IN A DREAM AND HERE AGAIN HE IS FATED TO END IT--
T-TERRI!
YOU-YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN-- PULLED US INTO A DREAM WORLD!
I... KNOW! YOU ARE NOW IN THE THEATER OF THE MIND! TAKE A PART, ROBIN-- IF YOU CAN!
I NEVER KNEW YOU TO BE SO UGLY, BURTON-- SO FULL OF HATRED!
YOU ALWAYS WERE A WHIMPERING FOOL, GORDON--
--ALONG WITH YOUR VILE SON! I'LL CRUSH YOUR SPIRIT NOW-- AS I'VE DONE ALL YOUR WORTHLESS LIFE!
I MUST ACT-- TO PROTECT THEM!
AH... I SENSE STRENGTH FLOWING LIKE AN OCEAN CURRENT, COMING FROM ABOVE--AND YET FROM WITHIN!

OWWFFH!
THANKS, ROBIN-- BUT IT'S HIGH TIME I STOOD ON MY OWN FEET!
AND THIS-- BROTHER BURTON, IS FOR YOU!
SO THE DRAMA ENDS... BUT CAN YOU TELL WHERE THE DREAM ENDED AND REALITY BEGAN?
LET'S GO HOME, RICK! OUR GENERATIONS MAY NEVER AGREE ON HOW TO VIEW LIFE--
--BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS A FATHER CAN DO FOR HIS SON!
THEN... AS DAWN CRACKS THE BRITTLE FOG OF MORNING, IT'S TIME TO BEGIN A NEW DRAMA...
PEACE BE WITH YOU, ROBIN!
TERRI'S MIND IS STILL DRAGGING AT MINE-- TOWARDS WHAT?
ROBIN IS COMING-- I... KNOW!
HE IS POWERLESS TO RESIST--
--BECAUSE I HAVE SUMMONED HIM TO ME!
NEXT: TERRI'S STARTLING SECRET!
--FEATURING A SURPRISE GUEST-STAR!

SORRY!
...I HAVE NO MORE DC COMICS!
HEY TOMMY! HOW COME YOU NEVER MISS YOUR COMICS?
SIMPLE--
--I GET THEM STRAIGHT FROM D.C.! THEY'RE MAILED DIRECT TO ME--PERSONALLY! RIGHT TO MY HOUSE!
AND D.C. PAYS THE POSTAGE!


SOUNDS GREAT!--BUT HOW MUCH EXTRA DOES THAT COST YOU?
NOTHING EXTRA! SAME PRICE AS THE NEWSSTAND--
AND THIS WAY I'M SURE NEVER TO MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF ANY COMIC I WANT


JUST THINK--I CAN ORDER ALL I WANT OF MY FAVORITE COMICS AT ONE TIME!
WOW! HOW CAN I GET THE SAME DEAL?
EASY!! JUST FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS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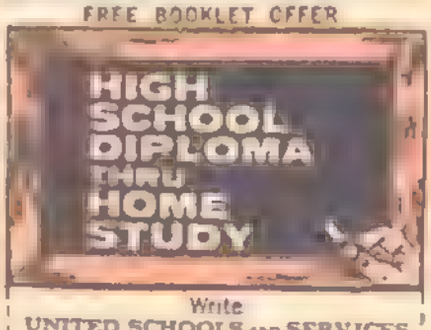

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A BATMAN SPECIAL

The MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY!

BATMANIACS WITH LONG MEMORIES RECORD THE NUMBER OF "REVIVALS" IN THE CAPED CRUSADER'S CAREER--AMONG THEM THE "NEW LOOK" INTRODUCED IN 1964. THIS STORY IS THE FIRST-WRITTEN SCRIPT OF THAT CLASSIC RENEWAL--ITS CLAIM TO FAME IS THE START OF ONE OF BATMAN'S MOST FAMOUS SERIES! FOLLOW THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS AS THEY DELVE INTO GOTHAM CITY'S GREATEST MYSTERY--

BATMAN'S GREAT FACE-SAVING FEAT!

BATMAN ROBIN

STORY: FRANCE E. HERRON
ART: BOB KANE & JOE GIELLA

BETTER HIDE YOUR EYES, BATMAN! THAT FLARE SHOT OFF BY THE CROOKS COULD TEMPORARILY BLIND YOU!

TH-THANKS, RANKIN!

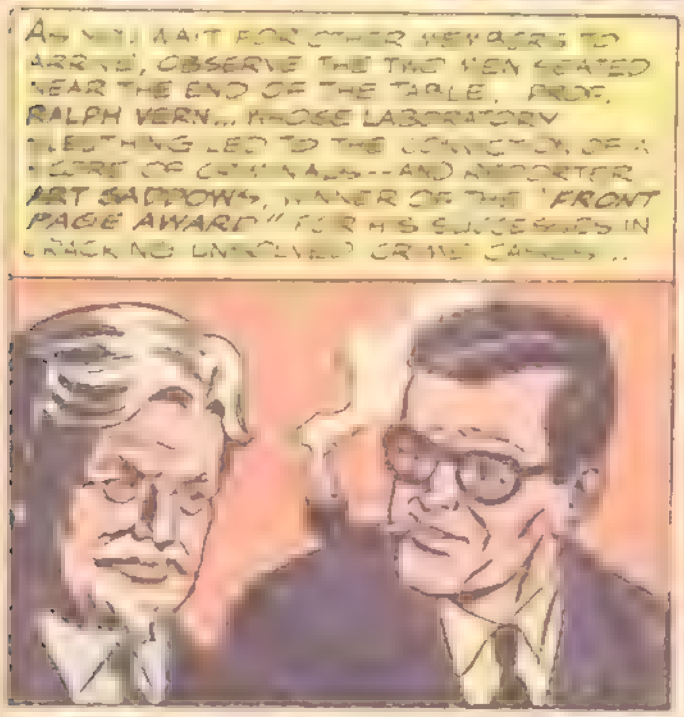
RANKIN'S VERY HELPFUL--BUT IS HE HELPING ME OR THOSE CROOKS?

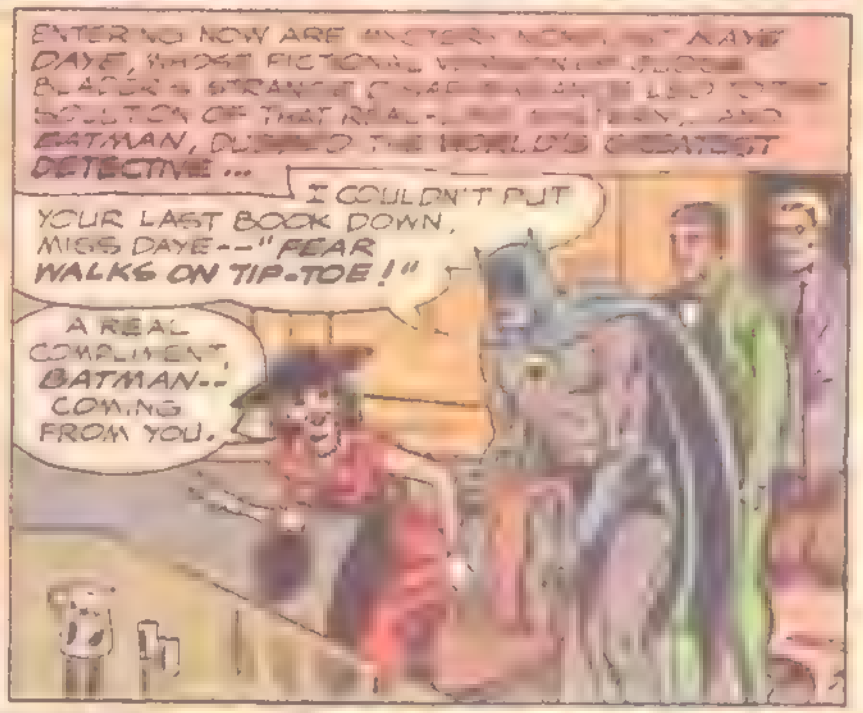
BOB KANE

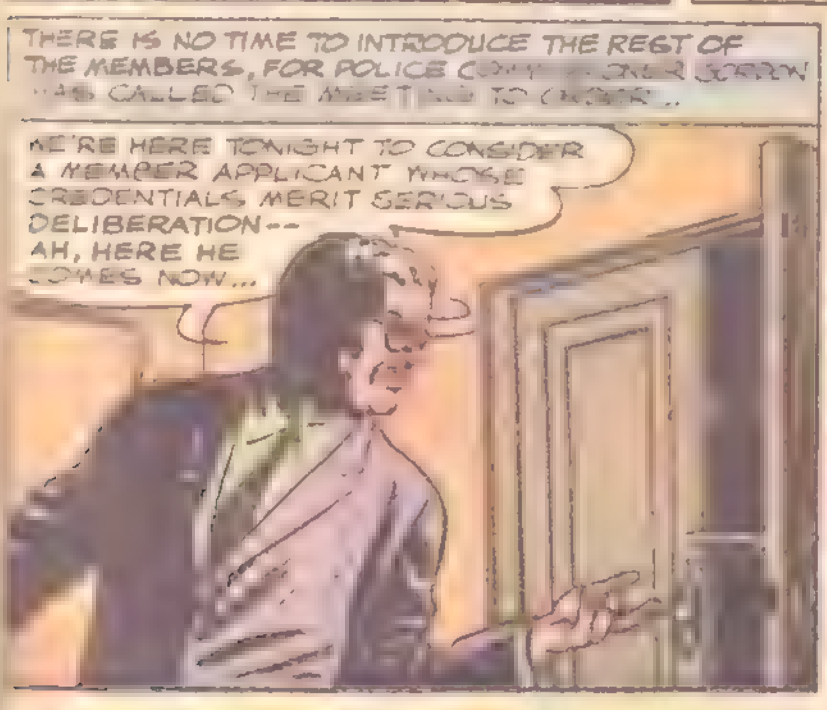
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN BATMAN #164 - JUNE, 1964.

A BATMAN SPECIAL

YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE MEETING ROOM OF A UNIQUE AND EXCLUSIVE CLUB, THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY, EXPERTS AT THE BUSINESS OF SOLVING BIZARRE MYSTERIES...

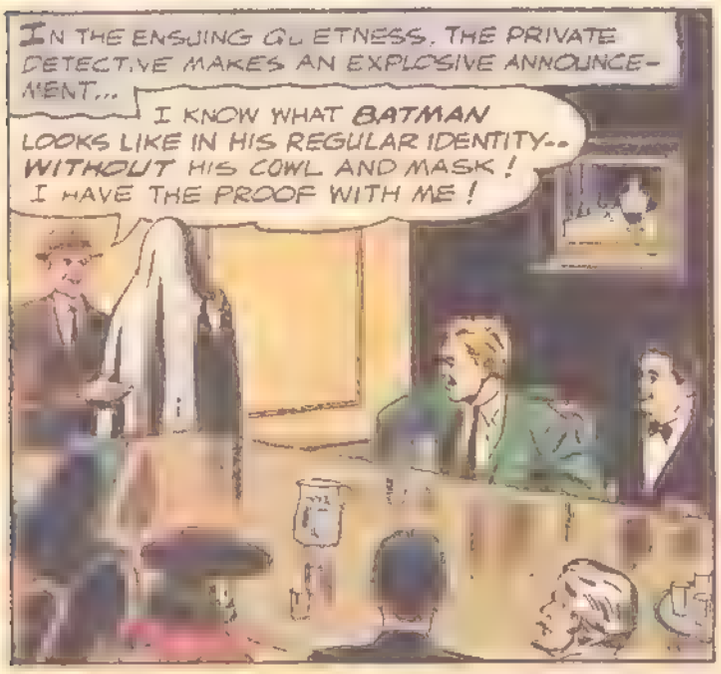

AS YOU WAIT FOR OTHER MEMBERS TO ARRIVE, OBSERVE THE TWO MEN SEATED NEAR THE END OF THE TABLE. PROF. RALPH VERN... WHOSE LABORATORY SLEUTHING LED TO THE CONVICTION OF A COURT OF CRIMINALS -- AND REPORTER ART SADDOWS, WINNER OF THE 'FRONT PAGE AWARD' FOR HIS SUCCESSES IN CRACKING UNSOLVED CRIME CASES...

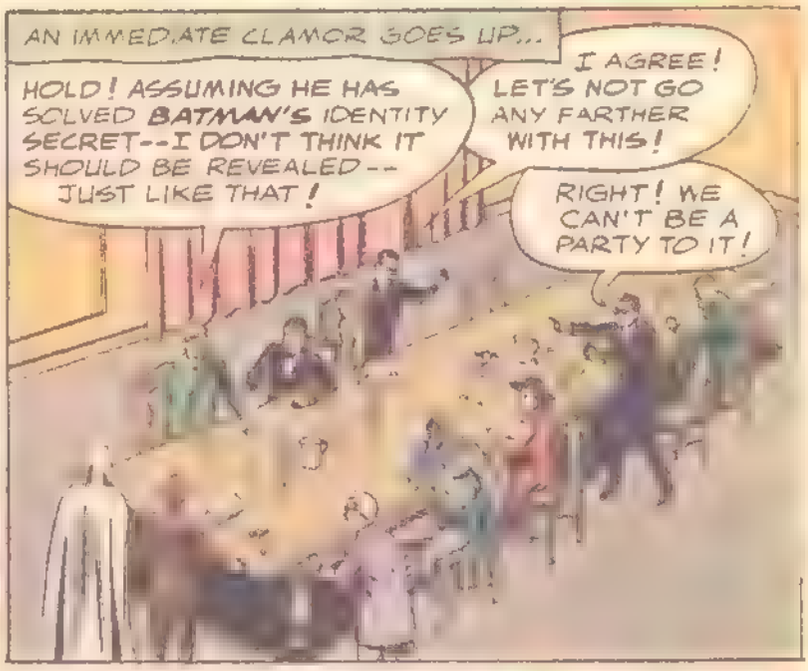

ENTERING NOW ARE MYSTERY NOVELIST KAYE DAYE, WHOSE FICTIONAL VERSION OF FLOOR BLACKER'S STRANGE CASE FIRST LED TO THE SOLUTION OF THAT REAL-LIFE MYSTERY, AND BATMAN, DUBBED THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE...
I COULDN'T PUT YOUR LAST BOOK DOWN, MISS DAYE -- "FEAR WALKS ON TIP-TOE!"
A REAL COMPLIMENT, BATMAN -- COMING FROM YOU.

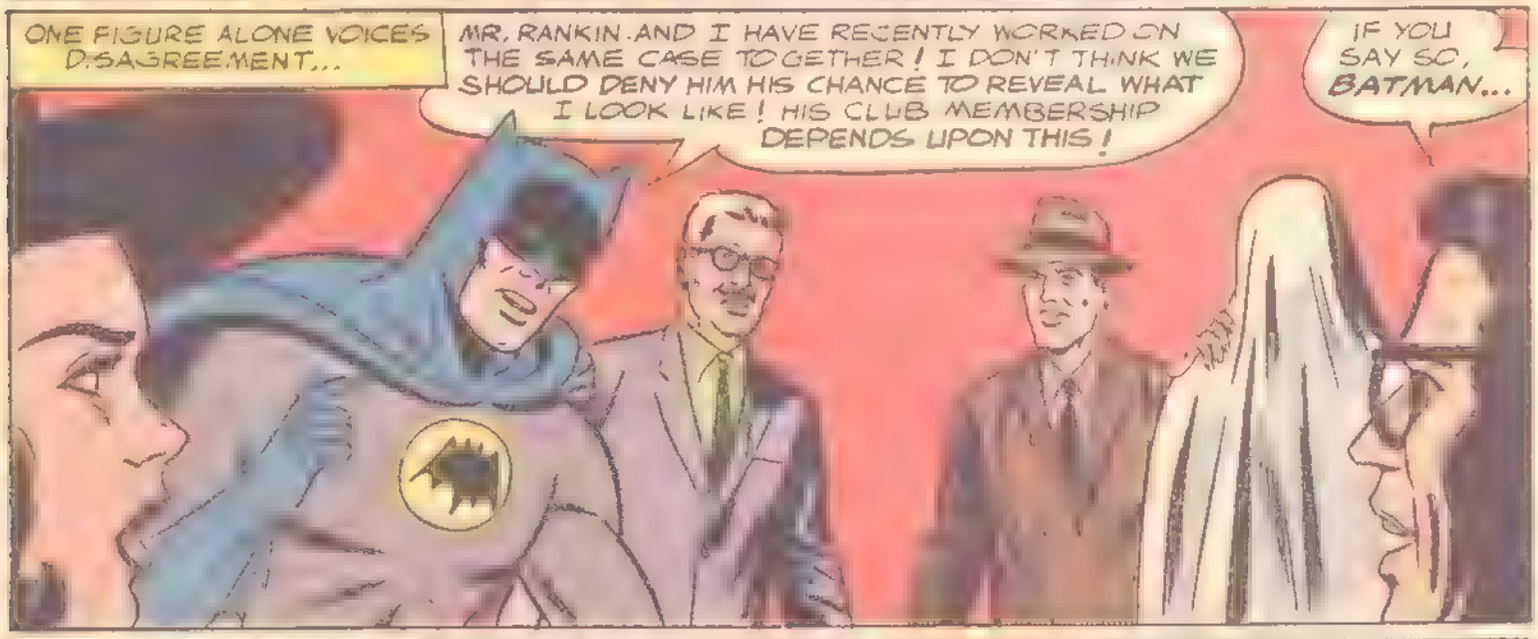

THERE IS NO TIME TO INTRODUCE THE REST OF THE MEMBERS, FOR POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER...
WE'RE HERE TONIGHT TO CONSIDER A MEMBER APPLICANT WHOSE CREDENTIALS MERIT SERIOUS DELIBERATION -- AH, HERE HE COMES NOW...

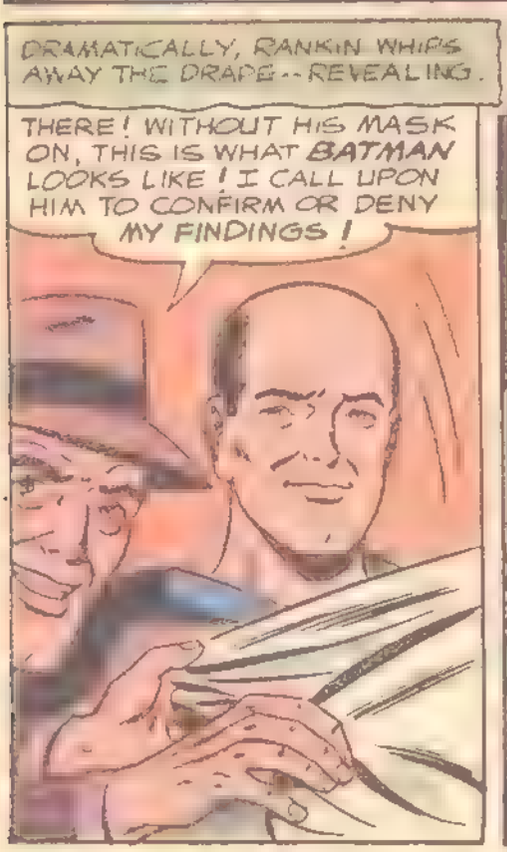
ALL EYES TURN TO THE DOORWAY AS...
SOLUTION TO EXCEPTIONAL MYSTERIES IS AN ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HUGH RANKIN IS CONVINCED HE'LL BE VOTED IN TONIGHT, BECAUSE...
...BECAUSE I HAVE SOLVED GOTHAM CITY'S GREATEST MYSTERY!

A BATMAN SPECIAL


IN THE ENSUING QUIETNESS, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE MAKES AN EXPLOSIVE ANNOUNCEMENT...
I KNOW WHAT BATMAN LOOKS LIKE IN HIS REGULAR IDENTITY-- WITHOUT HIS COWL AND MASK! I HAVE THE PROOF WITH ME!


AN IMMEDIATE CLAMOR GOES UP...
HOLD! ASSUMING HE HAS SOLVED BATMAN'S IDENTITY SECRET--I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE REVEALED-- JUST LIKE THAT!
I AGREE! LET'S NOT GO ANY FARTHER WITH THIS!
RIGHT! WE CAN'T BE A PARTY TO IT!


ONE FIGURE ALONE VOICES DISAGREEMENT...
MR. RANKIN AND I HAVE RECENTLY WORKED ON THE SAME CASE TOGETHER! I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DENY HIM HIS CHANCE TO REVEAL WHAT I LOOK LIKE! HIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP DEPENDS UPON THIS!
IF YOU SAY SO, BATMAN...

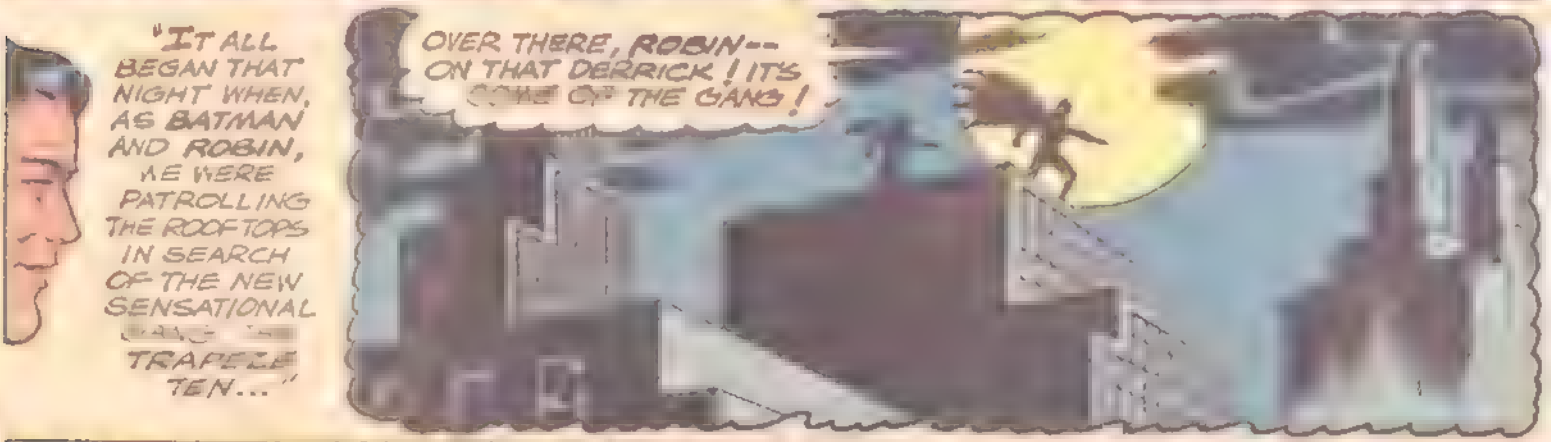

DRAMATICALLY, RANKIN WHIPS AWAY THE DRAPE--REVEALING.
THERE! WITHOUT HIS MASK ON, THIS IS WHAT BATMAN LOOKS LIKE! I CALL UPON HIM TO CONFIRM OR DENY MY FINDINGS!

A BATMAN SPECIAL

BEFORE THE STUNNED AUDIENCE, THE CRIME-FIGHTER BEGINS TO...
H-HE'S LIFTING HIS MASK!
LOOK! RANKIN WAS RIGHT! IT'S AN EXACT LIKENESS!
SHOCKED AT FIRST BY THE SENSATIONAL REVELATION, THE OTHER MEMBERS GATHER EXCITEDLY AROUND THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE...
YOU MUST TELL US--IN DETAIL--HOW YOU KNEW BATMAN'S MASKED FEATURES SO THOROUGHLY THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO CONSTRUCT A LOOK-ALIKE FIGURE OF HIM!
IN THRILLING DETAIL, RANKIN UNFOLDS HIS STARTLING STORY. THEN...
TELL US, BATMAN, WHO ARE YOU IN THIS OTHER IDENTITY?
THAT MUCH AT LEAST WILL REMAIN MY SECRET!
CLAP! CLAP!
JUST PRIOR TO THE SECRET VOTING, A CUSTOMARY REMINDER IS MADE...
REMEMBER, A WHITE BALL MEANS ACCEPTANCE OF THE CANDIDATE--WHILE EVEN A SINGLE BLACK BALL MEANS REJECTION!
HOW CAN RANKIN MISS--AFTER THE DISCOVERY HE'S MADE?
BUT FOLLOWING THE BALLOTING--TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF NEARLY EVERY ONE THERE...
ONE LONE BLACK BALL! RANKIN HAS BEEN REJECTED!
BUT WHY... AND BY WHOM?

A BATMAN SPECIAL

I KNOW YOU CAST THE BLACK BALL--BECAUSE RANKIN WAS WRONG! BUT HOW DID YOU EVER MANAGE TO DISGUISE YOUR FACE TO THE EXACT LIKENESS OF RANKIN'S DUMMY?
THAT'S THE STORY I'VE BEEN HOLDING OFF TELLING YOU, DICK--TILL I HAD ALL THE FACTS!


"IT ALL BEGAN THAT NIGHT WHEN, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, WE WERE PATROLLING THE ROOFTOPS IN SEARCH OF THE NEW SENSATIONAL [illegible] TRAPEZE TEN..."
OVER THERE, ROBIN--ON THAT DERRICK! IT'S [illegible] OF THE GANG!

[illegible] REACHED AN [illegible] ROOF..."
THE INSURANCE COMPANY'S SAFES ARE ON THAT FLOOR, ROBIN--WHERE THE CROOKS CAUGHT THE LEDGE WITH A GRAPPLING HOOK! GET TO THE DERRICK--SO THEY CAN'T ESCAPE DOWN IT...

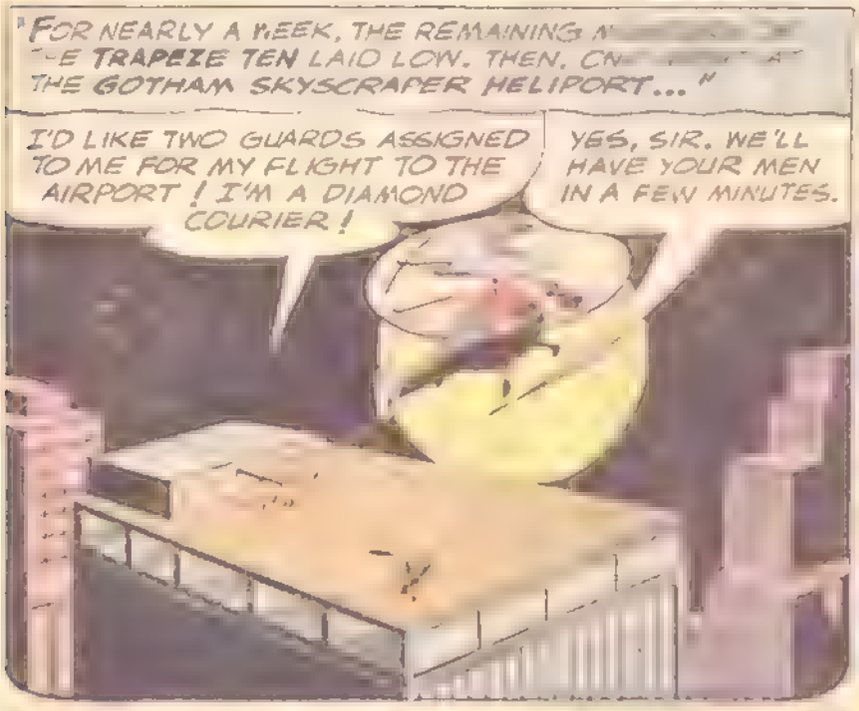
A BATMAN SPECIAL

I'LL CIRCLE AROUND TO THE NEXT ROOF, SWING OVER TO THAT SAME LEDGE, AND--
"OUT OF NOWHERE A FLYING FIGURE HIT ME--LIKE A TACKLE SMEARING A QUARTERBACK..."
HEY--WHAT--
"NEXT CAME THE ROARING CHATTER OF AN UNSEEN SUB-MACHINE GUN..."
¡Whew! THAT WAS CLOSE, BATMAN! I KNOCKED YOU OUT OF THE WAY--JUST IN TIME!
"THEN..."
THERE'S THE GUY WITH THE CHOPPER! HE WAS PLANTED AS A "SENTRY," TO COVER THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GANG!
THANKS FOR "SAVING" ME--BUT, ACTUALLY, JUST BEFORE YOU BANGED INTO ME, I SPOTTED A GLINT ON THE GUN, AND WAS PREPARED TO DIVE OUT OF THE PATH OF FIRE!
"WITH NO TIME TO TALK, I SNARED A JUTTING FLAGPOLE WITH MY SILK ROPE, AND..."
IT'S BATMAN! LUKE MISSED HIM WITH THE CHATTER GUN--BUT I'LL GET HIM!
"I HAD PREPARED A LARIAT, AND AS I SWUNG THROUGH THE AIR--FEELING LIKE A COWBOY WITHOUT A HORSE UNDER ME..."
THIS HAD BETTER WORK THE FIRST TIME--THEY'LL NEVER GIVE ME A SECOND CHANCE...
THAT DOES IT! NOW--TO GET THEM DOWN--TO WHERE THE POLICE CAN TAKE OVER!

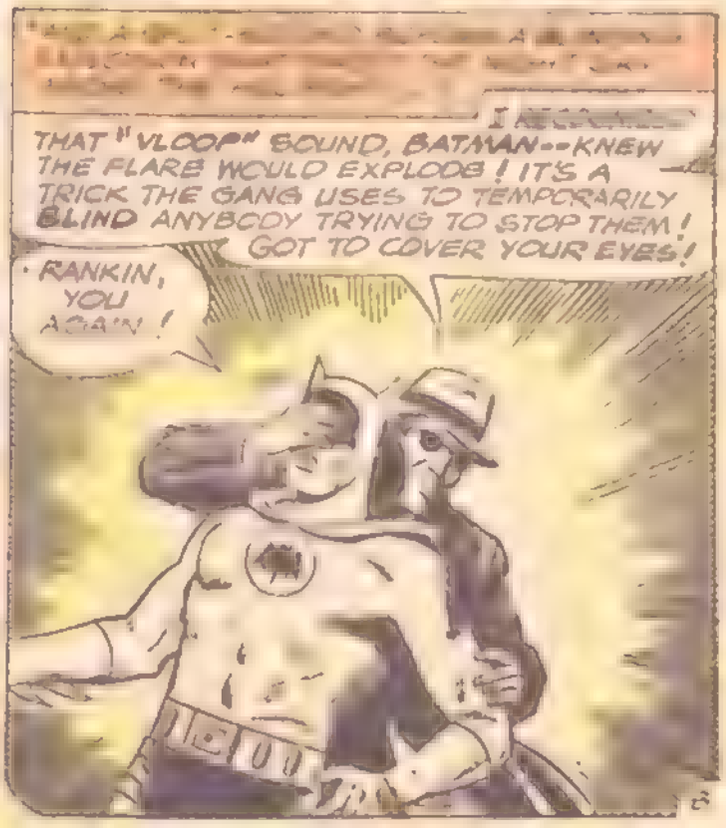
A BATMAN SPECIAL

LATER BELOW I GOT MY FIRST GOOD LOOK AT THE MAN WHO HAD SLAMMED IN TO ME ON THE ROOF..."
AREN'T YOU HUGH RANKIN, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR?
RIGHT, BATMAN! I, TOO, HAVE BEEN AFTER THE TRAPEZE TEN! THEY ROBBED A COUPLE OF MY CLIENTS!
I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HOW THE GANG WORKS. HOW THEY PLANT 'SENTRIES' TO COVER THE MAIN OPERATION--HOW THEY...
WHERE'S ROBIN? I JUST REALIZED I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE ALL THIS STARTED!
AND THAT WAS THE FIRST I LEARNED YOU HAD BEEN HIT, ROBIN...
I'M OKAY! ONE OF THE 2 BULLETS GOT MY LEG--
SURE, HE'S OKAY!--BUT I'LL BET WHEN THE AMBULANCE ARRIVES, THE DOC'LL TELL EVEN THE BOY WONDER TO STAY OFF HIS FEET FOR AWHILE!
I KNEW THAT PART OF THE STORY, BRUCE. BUT HOW DOES IT TIE IN WITH THAT DISGUISE YOU WORKED OUT TO LOOK LIKE RANKIN'S DUMMY? I DON'T GET IT!
YOU WOULDN'T--SINCE YOU WERE OUT OF THE REST OF THE ADVENTURE... BUT HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...
"BEFORE I LEFT RANKIN THAT NIGHT..."
WITH ROBIN OUT OF ACTION, IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO CARRY ON ALONE TO GET THE REST OF THE TRAPEZE TEN!
NOT ALONE, BATMAN! REMEMBER, I HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS CASE, TOO!

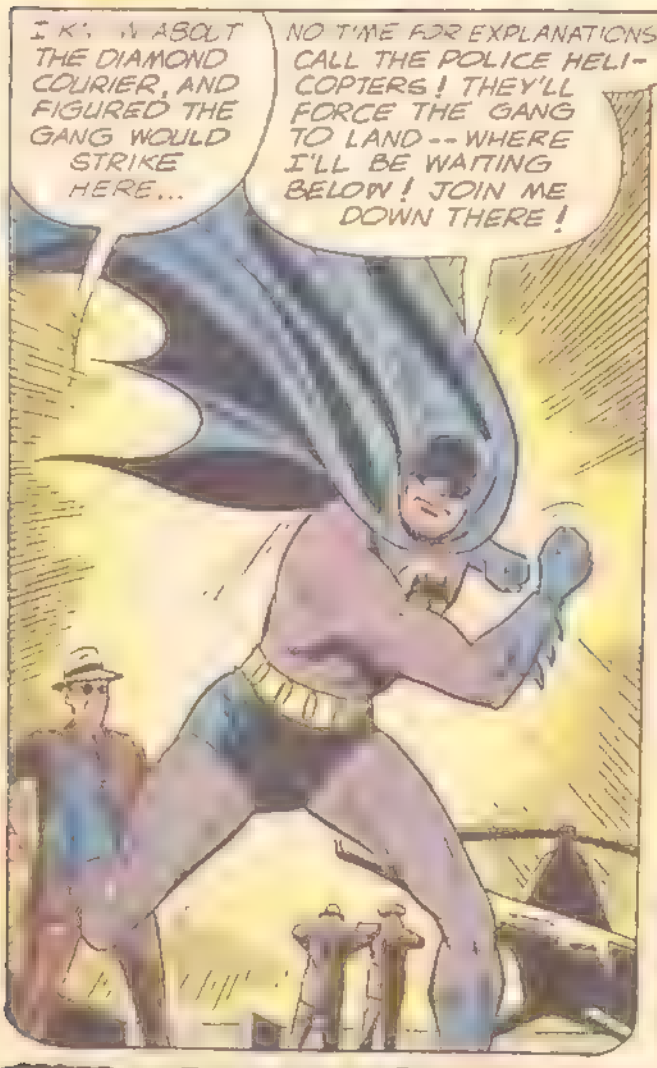
A BATMAN SPECIAL

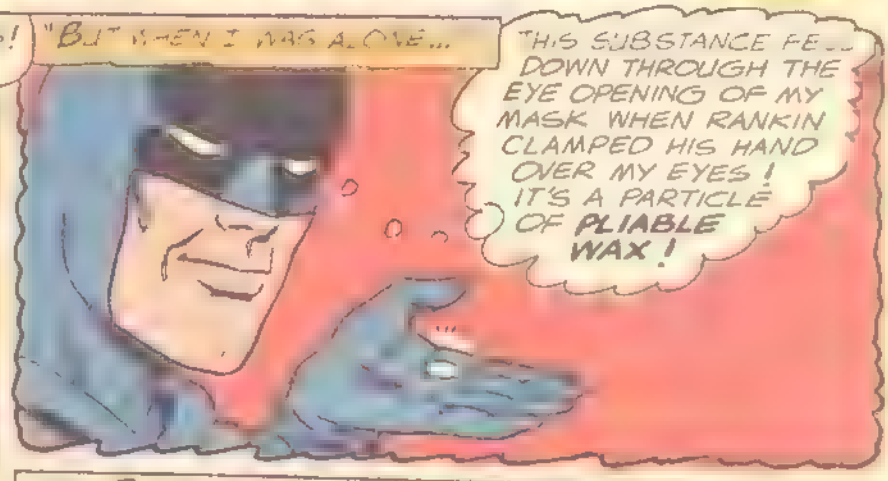

"FOR NEARLY A WEEK, THE REMAINING [illegible] OF THE TRAPEZE TEN LAID LOW. THEN, ONE [illegible] AT THE GOTHAM SKYSCRAPER HELIPORT..."
I'D LIKE TWO GUARDS ASSIGNED TO ME FOR MY FLIGHT TO THE AIRPORT! I'M A DIAMOND COURIER!
YES, SIR. WE'LL HAVE YOUR MEN IN A FEW MINUTES.

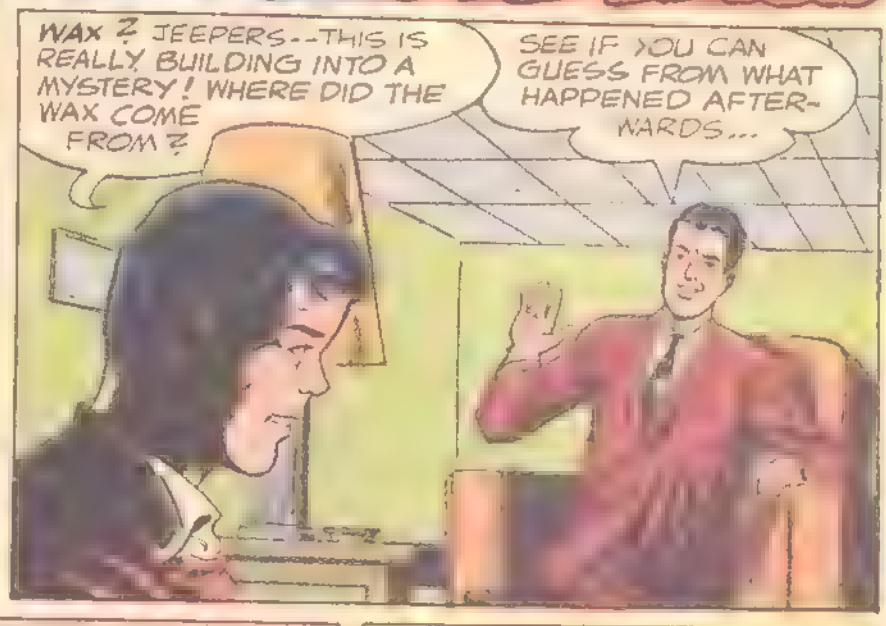
"AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS I HAD RECEIVED A CALL FROM A [illegible] ABOUT THE DIAMOND ROBBERY PLAN, AND JUST AS I GOT TO THE HELIPORT..."
THE GANG MEMBERS FORMED A HUMAN CHAIN--SNATCHED THE BRIEFCASE OF GEMS--AND WILL GET AWAY, UNLESS...
IT'S BATMAN! BUT DON'T WORRY--OPERATION FLARE WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM!


[illegible] I RECOGNIZED THAT "VLOOP" SOUND, BATMAN--KNEW THE FLARE WOULD EXPLODE! IT'S A TRICK THE GANG USES TO TEMPORARILY BLIND ANYBODY TRYING TO STOP THEM! GOT TO COVER YOUR EYES!
RANKIN, YOU AGAIN!

A BATMAN SPECIAL

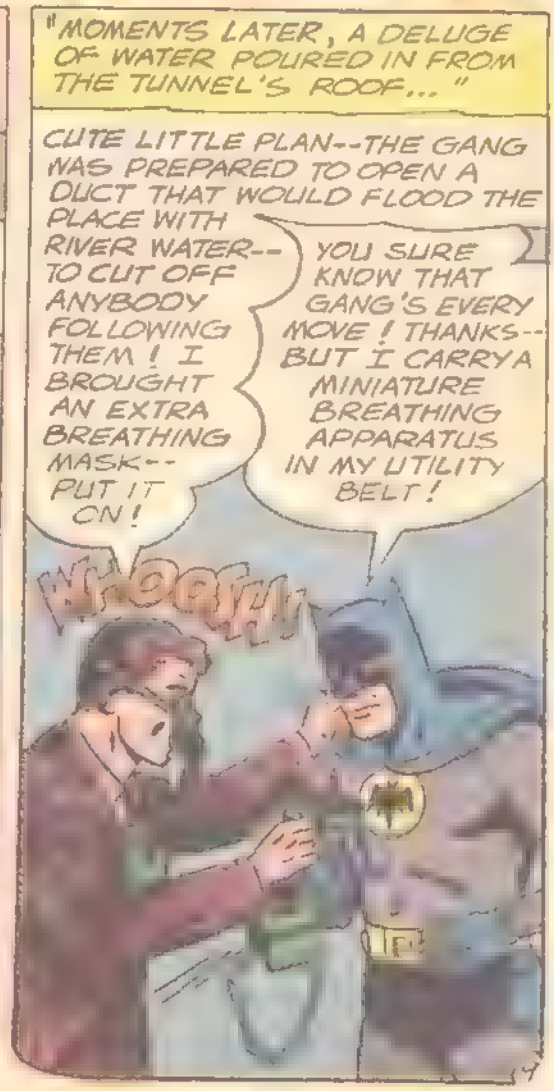

I KNOW ABOUT THE DIAMOND COURIER, AND FIGURED THE GANG WOULD STRIKE HERE...
NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS! CALL THE POLICE HELICOPTERS! THEY'LL FORCE THE GANG TO LAND--WHERE I'LL BE WAITING BELOW! JOIN ME DOWN THERE!


"BUT WHEN I WAS ALONE...
THIS SUBSTANCE FELL DOWN THROUGH THE EYE OPENING OF MY MASK WHEN RANKIN CLAMPED HIS HAND OVER MY EYES! IT'S A PARTICLE OF PLIABLE WAX!

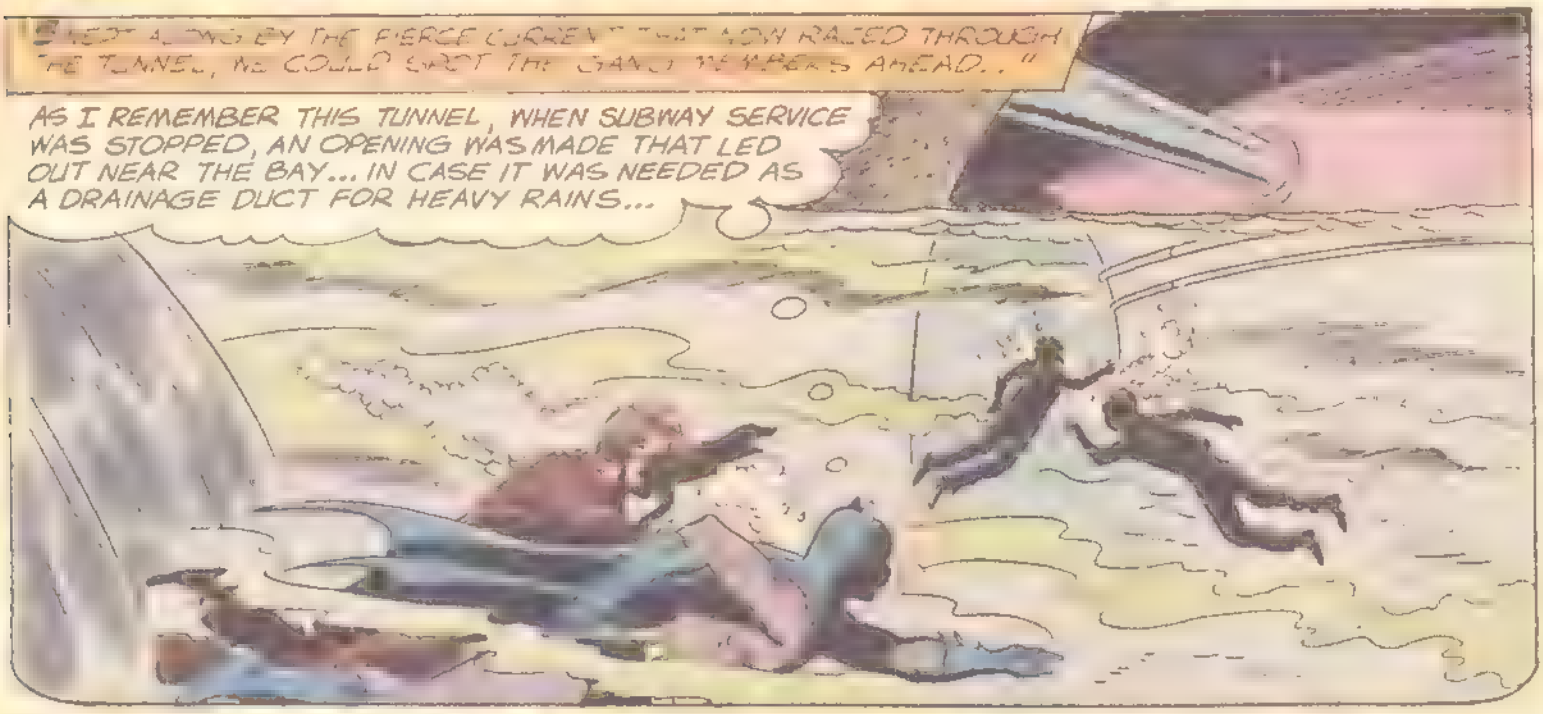

WAX? JEEPERS--THIS IS REALLY BUILDING INTO A MYSTERY! WHERE DID THE WAX COME FROM?
SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS FROM WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS...

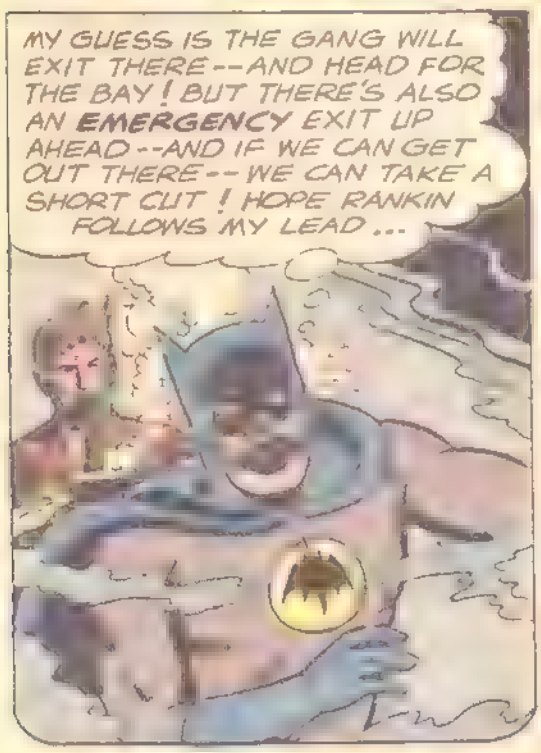
SHORTLY, THE GANG LANDED--BUT NOT BECAUSE POLICE COPTERS FORCED THEM DOWN! INSTEAD...
THEY HAD A SURPRISE GETAWAY PLANNED ON THE GROUND, RANKIN--THROUGH THAT ABANDONED SUBWAY TUNNEL! COME ON...

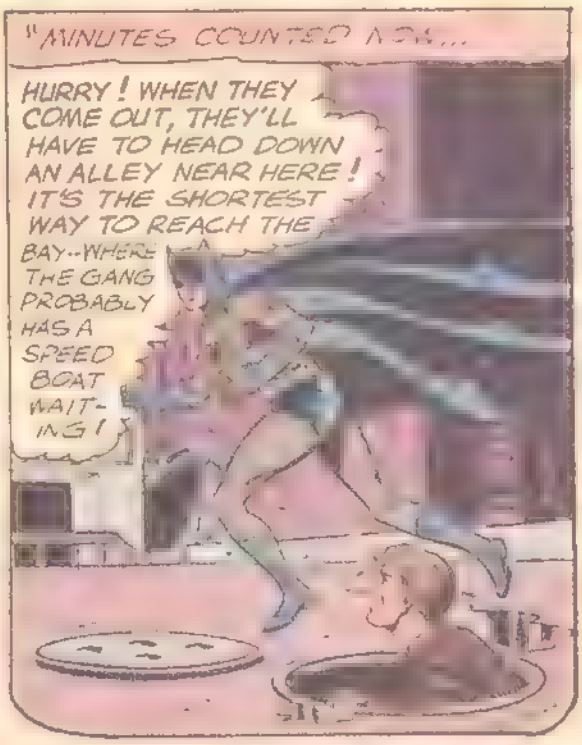
"DOWN WE WENT--INTO THE OMINOUS SILENCE OF THE GLOOMY OLD SUBWAY TUNNEL..."
NOT A SIGN OF THEM!
BATMAN! HEAR THAT SOUND? I KNOW WHAT IT IS! WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST!
WHOOSH!


"MOMENTS LATER, A DELUGE OF WATER POURED IN FROM THE TUNNEL'S ROOF..."
CUTE LITTLE PLAN--THE GANG WAS PREPARED TO OPEN A DUCT THAT WOULD FLOOD THE PLACE WITH RIVER WATER--TO CUT OFF ANYBODY FOLLOWING THEM! I BROUGHT AN EXTRA BREATHING MASK--PUT IT ON!
YOU SURE KNOW THAT GANG'S EVERY MOVE! THANKS--BUT I CARRY A MINIATURE BREATHING APPARATUS IN MY UTILITY BELT!
WHOOSH!

A BATMAN SPECIAL


"KEPT ALONG BY THE FIERCE CURRENT THAT NOW RACED THROUGH THE TUNNEL, WE COULD SPOT THE GANG MEMBERS AHEAD.."
AS I REMEMBER THIS TUNNEL, WHEN SUBWAY SERVICE WAS STOPPED, AN OPENING WAS MADE THAT LED OUT NEAR THE BAY... IN CASE IT WAS NEEDED AS A DRAINAGE DUCT FOR HEAVY RAINS...


MY GUESS IS THE GANG WILL EXIT THERE--AND HEAD FOR THE BAY! BUT THERE'S ALSO AN EMERGENCY EXIT UP AHEAD--AND IF WE CAN GET OUT THERE--WE CAN TAKE A SHORT CUT! HOPE RANKIN FOLLOWS MY LEAD...


"MINUTES COUNTED NOW...
HURRY! WHEN THEY COME OUT, THEY'LL HAVE TO HEAD DOWN AN ALLEY NEAR HERE! IT'S THE SHORTEST WAY TO REACH THE BAY--WHERE THE GANG PROBABLY HAS A SPEED BOAT WAITING!

"WE SPED DOWN THE ALLEY, TO..."
THEY'LL COME RUNNING PAST THIS SPOT, RANKIN--SO ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO STAY HERE AND HOLD THEM, WHILE THE OTHER CARRIES OUT A PLAN I HAVE IN MIND! Hmm--THAT WINDOW...
NEPTUNE FISHING TRUCKERS ENTRANCE
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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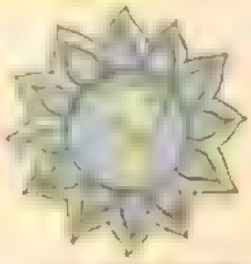

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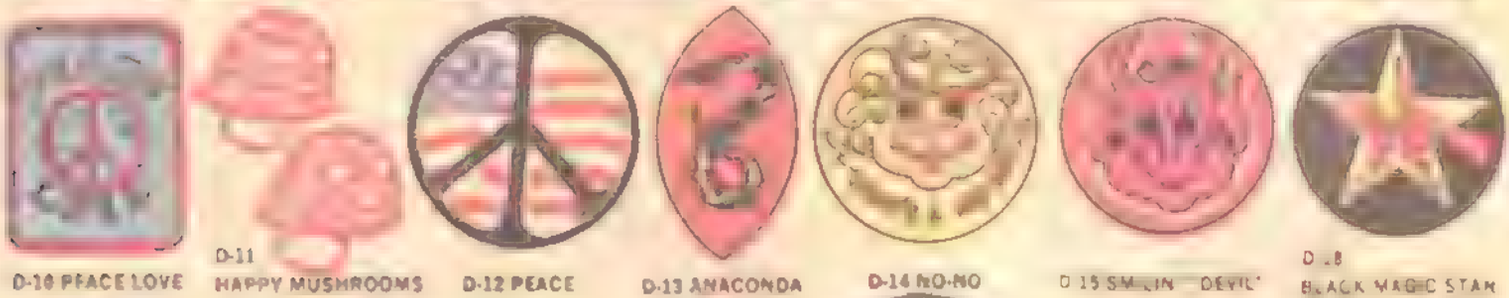
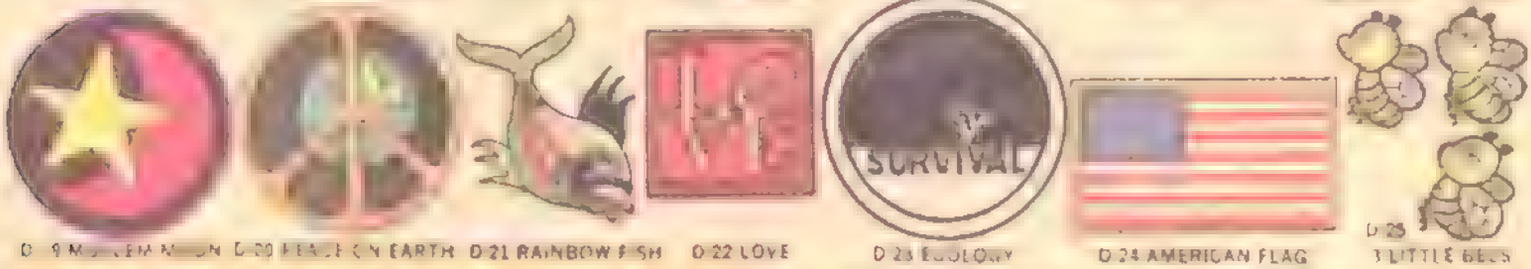


D-10 PEACE LOVE | D-11 HAPPY MUSHROOMS | D-12 PEACE | D-13 ANACONDA | D-14 NO-NO | D-15 SMILIN' DEVIL | D-18 BLACK MAGIC STAR



D-19 MOON MAN | D-20 PEACE ON EARTH | D-21 RAINBOW FISH | D-22 LOVE | D-23 ECOLOGY | D-24 AMERICAN FLAG | D-25 3 LITTLE BEARS

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A BATMAN SPECIAL

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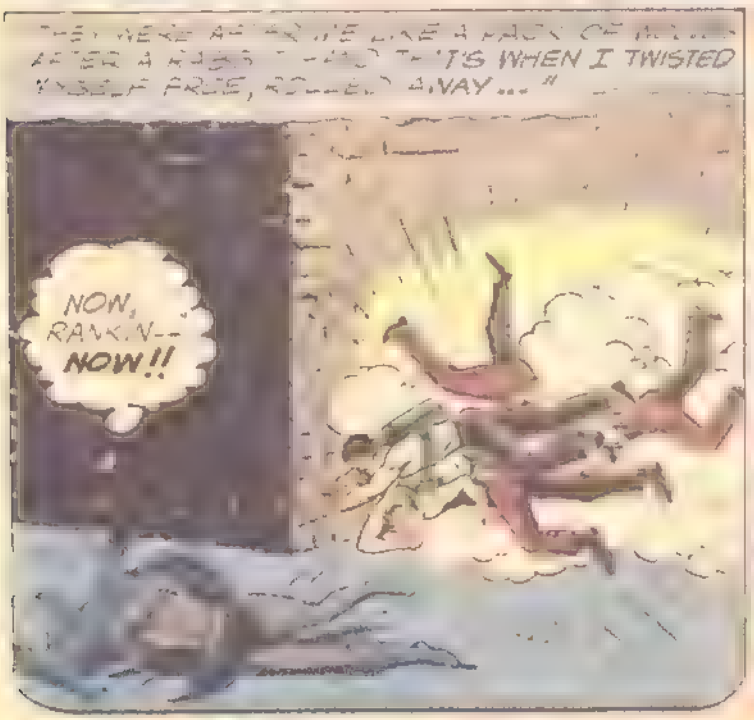
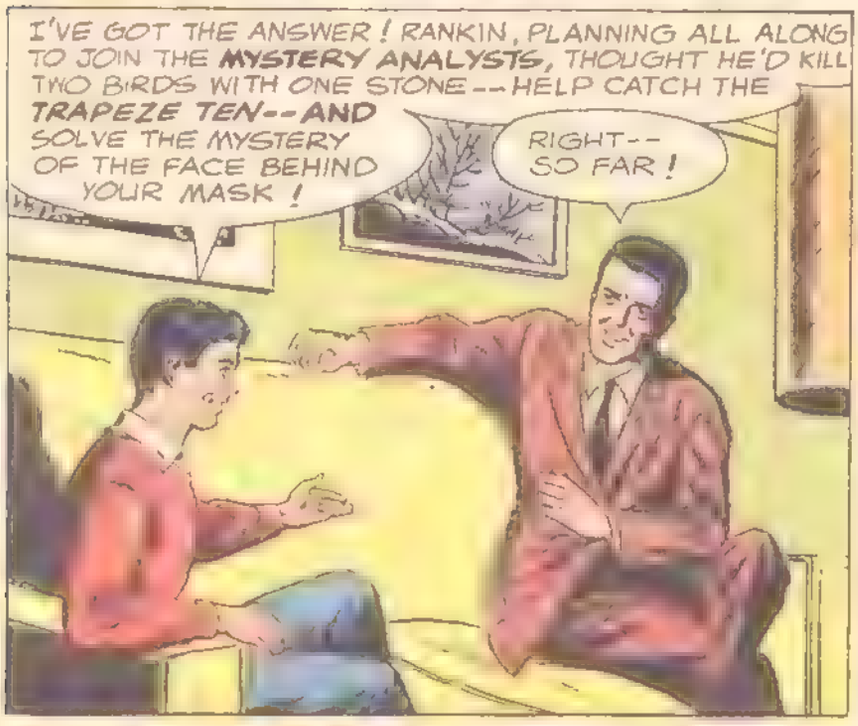
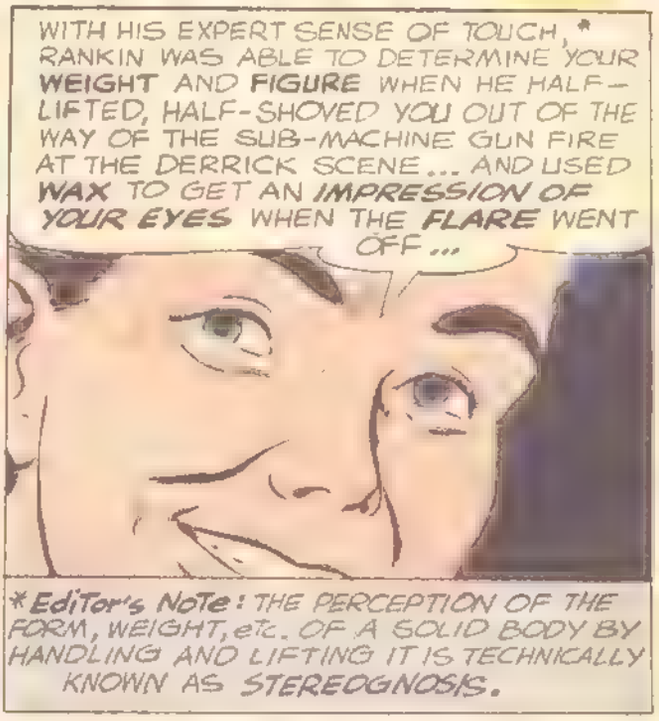
UP YOU GO ! REMEMBER--LET ME MANEUVER THEM INTO POSITION BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE !
GOTCHA ! DON'T MIND IF I BALANCE MYSELF... I'M NOT MUCH AT CLIMBING...

"...AND NOW, WHEN..."
HA, HA ! LOOK AT THAT-- BATMAN FORMING A ONE-MAN "ROADBLOCK"! LET'S RUSH HIM !
YEAH, WE OWE HIM PLENTY FOR GETTING IN OUR HAIR! HERE'S OUR CHANCE-- WITH HIM ALONE !

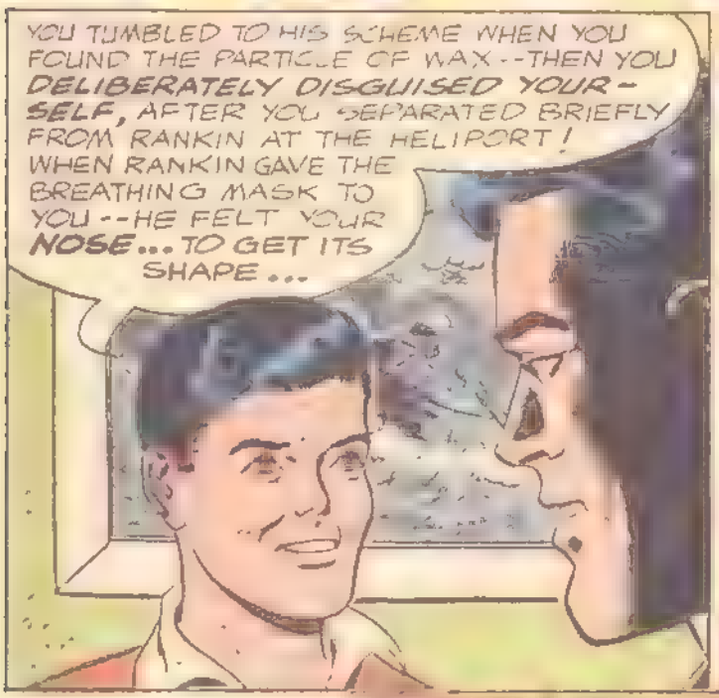


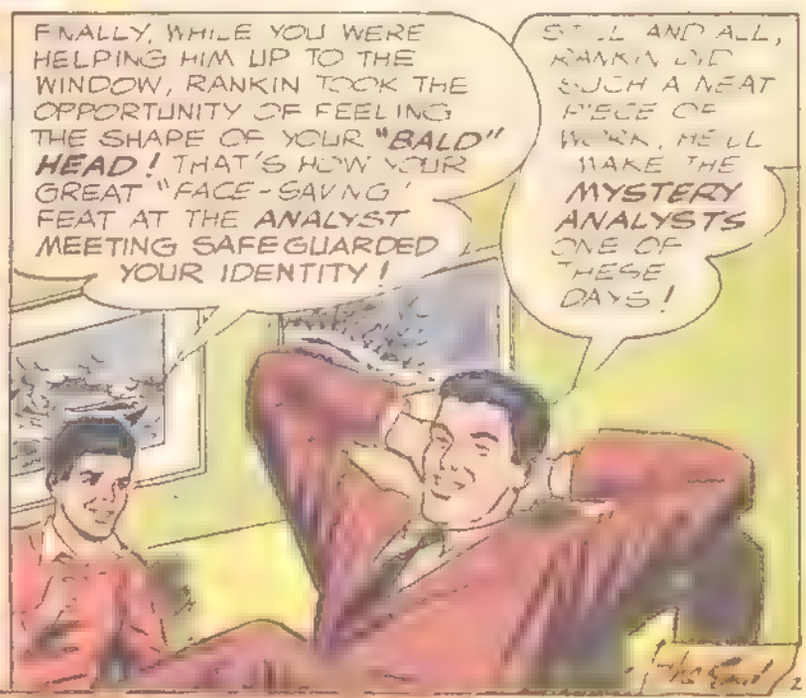
A BATMAN SPECIAL


I'VE GOT THE ANSWER! RANKIN, PLANNING ALL ALONG TO JOIN THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS, THOUGHT HE'D KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE--HELP CATCH THE TRAPEZE TEN--AND SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE FACE BEHIND YOUR MASK!
RIGHT--SO FAR!


WITH HIS EXPERT SENSE OF TOUCH,* RANKIN WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE YOUR WEIGHT AND FIGURE WHEN HE HALF-LIFTED, HALF-SHOVED YOU OUT OF THE WAY OF THE SUB-MACHINE GUN FIRE AT THE DERRICK SCENE... AND USED WAX TO GET AN IMPRESSION OF YOUR EYES WHEN THE FLARE WENT OFF...

*EDITOR'S NOTE: THE PERCEPTION OF THE FORM, WEIGHT, etc. OF A SOLID BODY BY HANDLING AND LIFTING IT IS TECHNICALLY KNOWN AS STEREOGNOSIS.


YOU TUMBLED TO HIS SCHEME WHEN YOU FOUND THE PARTICLE OF WAX--THEN YOU DELIBERATELY DISGUISED YOURSELF, AFTER YOU SEPARATED BRIEFLY FROM RANKIN AT THE HELIPORT! WHEN RANKIN GAVE THE BREATHING MASK TO YOU--HE FELT YOUR NOSE... TO GET ITS SHAPE...


FINALLY, WHILE YOU WERE HELPING HIM UP TO THE WINDOW, RANKIN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF FEELING THE SHAPE OF YOUR "BALD" HEAD! THAT'S HOW YOUR GREAT "FACE-SAVING" FEAT AT THE ANALYST MEETING SAFEGUARDED YOUR IDENTITY!
STILL AND ALL, RANKIN DID SUCH A NEAT PIECE OF WORK, HE'LL MAKE THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS ONE OF THESE DAYS!
The End

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAR. 14TH

...Editor.

...Editor, none.

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11. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

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2. Mail subscriptions:	273	1,091
C. Total Paid Circulation:	244,488	234,005
D. Free Distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier or other means:		
1. Samples, complimentary, and other free copies:	-0-	-0-
2. Copies distributed to news agents, but not sold:	233,410	241,410
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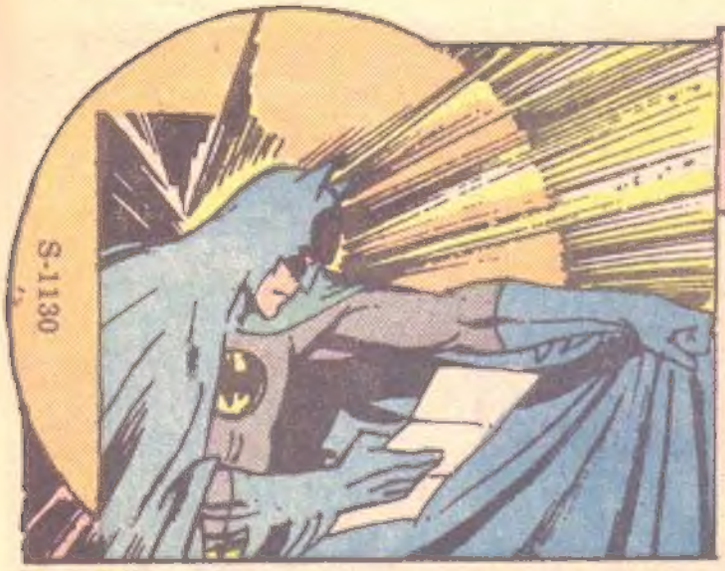

LETTERS to the BATMAN

Dear Editor:

Just about three years ago,
A man named Robbins joined the DC ranks.
He started to write lousy *Batman* tales
Even though they were old yarns rewritten
National still held phenomenal sales.
Then he stayed his pen at *"Frash"* stories
And though what some fans did is somewhat
Gory, most said,
"Oh, Lord, we're stuck with Robbins again!"
But a little while back
He hit the track with *Man-Bat* epics
And has written some tremendous things since
Like "Wail of the Ghost-Bride" in *Batman* #236
With great art and clever plot twists
The fans say,
"Oh, Lord, we're stuck with Robbins, hooray!"
(The above is to be sung to the tune of "Lodi", by John Fogerty)

—JOE FARARA, Canton, Mass.

(Harara for Farara!—JS)

Dear Editor:

As perhaps southern Massachusetts' only registered, card-carrying Denny O'Neil freak, I feel myself more than qualified to pass judgment on *Batman* #236, which lacked O'Neil but somehow came through despite it all. Frank Robbins and Mike Friedrich seem to have broken their customs of, shall we say, planned mediocrity, that I identified them with over the past few months. I feel that it's safe to assume that whatever lack of inspiration marked their stories up to now has been poured into this issue.

What *is* this? No *Robbins*-isms in "Wail of the Ghost-Bride"? He's put together a perfect combination of mystery, humor (loved the bit with the hardhats), and the mandatory action, and the result was the best *Batman* epic of the year.

The lack of *relevance*—a term that has been commercialized to death of late—was a good idea. I have come to the conclusion that relevance can only be handled by a handful of writers. Bob Kanigher, Mike Friedrich, and of course Denny O'Neil do it beautifully. But the inherent lack of *sincerity* (sorry, Frank) with Frank Robbins knocks you out of the game before you start. It's the expert story construction, the suspense, and the nutty climax scenes that constitute Robbins' forte, and all of these are what went into "Wail of the Ghost-Bride."

On the other side of the spectrum—the *relevant* side—was Mike Friedrich with the third and best chapter in his commune series. "Rain Fire" had everything the first two installments lacked, including the absence of the stereotypes Friedrich peopled the first two with. Though the "productive people" speech at the end was just a hair bitter to the radical element in me, everything else made it easy to forget about it.

—CLEM ROBINS, Sheffield, Mass.

Dear Editor:

"Wail of the Ghost-Bride" was a farce.

I am *bored silly* by the current rage of supernatural garbage being rammed down our throats. The *Batman* attempt to capitalize on the trend of the occult breeds contempt and (worst of all) unoriginality! I won't ask for—I *expect* originality from DC!

—MATT GRAHAM, Granada Hills, Ca.

Dear Editor:

To read a lot of the current crop of *Batman* adventures, you have to decide whether or not you want to believe in ghosts. Most of the stories involving spectral visions and the like leave the reader to decide whether there is a logical explanation or whether it must be credited to an outside force. "Wail of the Ghost-Bride" was a typical example of this and you play up the readers' decision with the epilogue.

But do we really get to make that choice? Isn't it really *Batman* who must decide for us? After all, *he* is the one who saw the ghost-bride. Is it coincidence that the manikin saves him or was it really an outside force? If we accept the idea that there are no real ghosts, then we must also assume that *Batman* is slowly but surely going insane. A man who sees these spirits as often as the *Caped Crusader* has is evidently not in full possession of his faculties. However, if he were to say that he *does* believe in ghosts, he will become the target of people who will say all this night-prowling has affected his mind.

I would like to believe that the ghosts do exist and that *Batman* believes in their existence, but that he will not tell anyone how he feels. If anyone would like to dispute this, I am open to debate on the subject. (Provided that the men in the white coats let me near the typewriter again!)

—BOB ROZAKIS, Elmont, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

"Wail of the Ghost-Bride!" Who dreams up Frank Robbins' closing lines?—"Be my ghost-guest!"—*Gad!*

—MARK M. THOMASE, Denver, Co.

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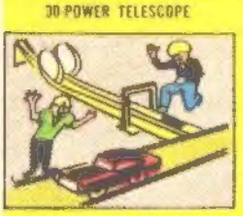
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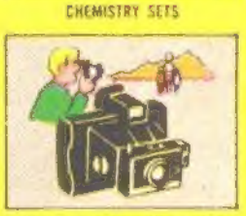
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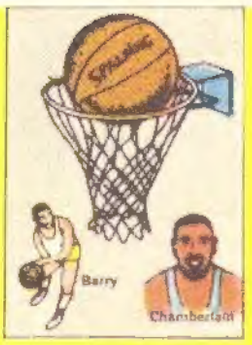

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